

**Grammys show great promise 54**

**Interview with a parking meter 3**



**Friday**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2008**

**redeyechicago.com**

A Chicago Tribune  
publication

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# man CANDY

**Hey guys, are you so sexy it hurts?  
You might have what it takes to  
model on the catwalk\* 6-7**

**\*on the catwalk ... yeah**

About 95 percent  
of the jobs Brian  
Newman books  
are for catalogs.





2do

**To meet**

Sip bellinis while listening to stories from Steven Rosengard of "Project Runway" Season 4 about his fashion experiences from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at Scarlet Designs (65 E. Oak St.) \$25; R.S.V.P. to [customerservice@scarletdesigns.com](mailto:customerservice@scarletdesigns.com).

**To shop**

Start taking care of your holiday gift buying from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday on North Broadway between Oakdale and Wellington Avenues. Independent merchants will be offering sales along with complimentary snacks and drinks.

**To stroll**

If you need an extra incentive to get shopping, stores between Damen and Oakley Avenues on Roscoe Street will offer cocktails, appetizers, trunk shows and sales as part of the annual Winterfest Stroll from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**To smell**

Jessica Simpson (left) will be at Macy's (111 N. State St.) at noon Saturday introducing her new fragrance, FANCY. The first 300 people to make a purchase from the collection also will get an autographed picture.

**Aye, aye caption**

Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in an issue of RedEye. To give it a shot text the word "**caption**" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!



**Thursday's winner:** "Doesn't he know it's too late to see no evil?" — Liz King

**U.S. Cellular**  
**txtable**
**Random dilemma**

We asked. You responded. Here are the results from Thursday's dilemma:

**58%** Take a year off and backpack around the world

**42%** Take a year off and travel in style around the U.S.

Here's another sent to us by RedEye reader Nicole Sutton: Which would you rather do? Text "**pick**" and the number of your response to **47383**. You'll get the results instantly.

1. Be stuck under the mistletoe with a hated ex?
2. Be stuck under the mistletoe with a hated boss?

Do you have an idea for our Random Dilemma? Send it to us at [ritaredeye@tribune.com](mailto:ritaredeye@tribune.com).



**24 20**  
**TODAY'S FORECAST**

It's cold, even for early December.



**SAT.**  
**31**  
**11**

Some light snow



**SUN.**  
**25**  
**18**

Partly cloudy



**MON.**  
**32**  
**29**

Maybe late snow



**TUE.**  
**33**  
**22**

Chance of snow

# Look Your Thinnest for the Holidays!

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GM CEO Rick Wagoner (left) and Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., arrive Thursday for a Senate hearing in Washington. GETTY IMAGES

# RUNNING ON FUMES

## With clock ticking, opposition to auto bailout still strong

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON** U.S. automakers drew fresh skepticism from lawmakers Thursday in a rocky confrontation over their pleas for an expanded \$34 billion rescue package they say they need to survive. Congressional analysts said one bailout plan under consideration would fall short of what the carmakers want.

With time on the current Congress running out, opposition to the bailout appeared to be as strong as last week—before Detroit's Big Three auto chiefs returned to Capitol Hill with more detailed plans on how they would spend the money.

Several lawmakers in both parties are pressing the automakers to consider a so-called "prepackaged" bankruptcy in which they would negotiate with creditors in advance and downsize, then file for Chapter 11 protection in hopes of emerging quickly as stronger companies. The Big Three have publicly shunned

### MAKING ENDS MEET?

Congressional budget analysts have privately told top Democrats that tapping into the already enacted \$700 billion financial bailout program to help the auto industry wouldn't come close to covering the \$34 billion that carmakers now say they need to survive.

It would yield only \$10 billion to \$15 billion in short-term loans, the analysts claimed, according to congressional officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the analysis. AP

the notion, saying it would kill sales by destroying customers' confidence—but executives have indicated in recent days that it might ultimately be necessary.

The executives all agreed in Thursday's hearing that a multibillion-dollar bailout deal would include a supervisory government board that could order major restructuring of the companies if deemed necessary for survival—similar to the results in many reorganizing efforts under bankruptcy law.

United Auto Worker union President Ron

Gettelfinger, aligned with the industry in pressing for the aid, told senators at a Banking Committee hearing that any kind of bankruptcy, even a prepackaged one, was not "a viable option." Gettelfinger said consumers would not buy autos from bankrupt companies, no matter the terms of the arrangement.

He also warned that in the absence of action by Congress: "I believe we could lose General Motors by the end of this month." He said the situation was dire and time was of the essence.

Meanwhile, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who has been dealing with both the financial bailout and the auto rescue proposal as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said President-elect Obama needs to play a more significant role on economic issues.

"He's going to have to be more assertive than he's been," Frank said at a Consumer Federation of America conference in Washington. "At a time of great crisis with mortgage foreclosures and autos, he says we only have one president at a time. I'm afraid that overstates the number of presidents we have. He's got to remedy that situation."



**CASUAL FRIDAY**

## Meter madness

Chicago parking meters have been in the spotlight this week, but they're popular for the wrong reason. As a result of a \$1.2 billion deal to lease the city's meters to a private company—approved by the City Council Thursday—parking rates will spike to at least \$1 an hour, and some downtown parking spots will end up costing \$6.50 an hour by 2013.

The deal has drivers up in arms, so in the interest of fairness, RedEye caught up with a city parking meter to get its side of the story.

**It's Tuesday. Mayor Daley drops this bombshell on the public that rates are going up. What's going through your mind at that point?**

Oh my gosh. Total shock. I don't know how I'm going to be able to look people in the face and demand more money. I mean, I'll pretty much look the same, but ...

**But it'll hurt on the inside?**

Yeah, exactly. Behind this metal exterior is a bunch of ... raw ... metallic emotion.

**What do you say to the drivers who are angry right now?**

I guess I'd say, "Don't shoot the messenger." Or, "Don't spray paint vulgarities on the messenger," if you will. Look, I'm getting hit where it hurts too. I can't even smoke a cigarette. I'm less than 15 feet from an office doorway.

**And you can't move.**

Right. One of the drawbacks of being a meter. Kind of sucks. I'd like to go to a movie someday.

**Which one?**

I saw ads for this horror movie that looked good. "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" or something like that?

CASUAL FRIDAY IS A, ER, CASUAL LOOK AT THE WEEK'S NEWS. GOT AN IDEA FOR US? E-MAIL [RITAREDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM](mailto:RITAREDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM) OR TWEET US.



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**page  
four**

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**Today, BET is known more as a punch line than a pioneer. That's why founder Bob Johnson has no business in broadcast of any form anymore, but he isn't the only public figure who should steer clear of certain things.**

#### TALK TO US

Which celebs or public figures would you like to see step away from what? Send your comments to Kyra at [kkyles@tribune.com](mailto:kkyles@tribune.com). Don't forget your full name, age and neighborhood, as we may run your comment in the paper.

## Give it up, already

Consider this your official warning, eyeballs and eardrums everywhere: BET founder Bob Johnson may be returning to the programming biz.

That's right. The man who ushered in the outrageously offensive "BET, Uncut" is teaming with ION Media Networks for a new project called Urban Television, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The channel will be a mostly online initiative aimed at black, Latino, gay and other minority communities, according to the Reporter, which quoted Johnson as saying: "The intent is to do something really innovative and not duplicate what I did at BET."

He's not the only one who doesn't want a duplication of BET.

Though the network initially brought much-needed diversity with stellar BET shows, it soon poisoned the pop culture airwaves with hours of cash-throwing, stripper-pole filled music videos and cornball comedy programs. Even after Johnson sold the network to Viacom in 2000, it never recovered reputation-wise.

Today, BET is known more as a punch line than a pioneer.

That's why Johnson has no business in broadcast of any form anymore, but he isn't the only public figure who should steer clear of certain things.

#### T-Pain, step away from the Auto-Tune

I'll admit to chanting along with "Chopped and Screwed" featuring Ludacris. I will even cop to bouncing to "Buy U a Drank." T-Pain, the ringmaster rapper-and-singer, has an undeniable talent for catchy hooks and cameos with credible artists.

But now that he has proven his prowess and even hosted the most recent BET Awards, it's safe for him to abandon that Auto-Tune effect. Every time I turn on the radio and hear one of his (or his many imitators) songs, it's like being serenaded by Shockwave from "Transformers."

#### Rosie O'Donnell, let's air a finale to your feuds

Ratings reality hit Rosie O'Donnell's variety show, "Rosie Live," which aired on Thanksgiving Eve, scored a scoff-worthy 5 million pairs of eyeballs and ranked 81 in Nielsen's weekly prime-time rankings, according to the Associated Press. Not surprisingly, NBC threw dirt on dreams for a future "Rosie" run, the AP reported on Tuesday.

If only the death of O'Donnell's feuds could be so quick.

O'Donnell seemingly centered pre-show press on insulting her former boss, Barbara Walters, culminating with a caustic video blog entry and other less-than-subtle snipes during a "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" appearance.

Before that brouhaha, O'Donnell was knee-deep in a never-ending war of words with Donald Trump.

So what if Trump is a poorly coiffed windbag and Walters wasn't exactly her best boss ever? O'Donnell shouldn't immerse herself in so much showbiz beef. Nowadays, her ire reflects more on herself than her feud-mates. She's on the cusp of becoming the talk-show equivalent of known fight-starter 50 Cent.

Maybe if O'Donnell focused as much on her career as she does on famous-on-famous feuds, she could launch a project that lasts longer than the "Hot Topics" segment on "The View."



**A Chicago Tribune  
publication**  
**redychicago.com**

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# Celebrate Eco-Friendly Holidays at the Nature Museum

Ring in the holidays by constructing eco-friendly gifts, finding ways to reuse gift wrap and recording your 2009 eco-resolution. Visit [naturemuseum.org](http://naturemuseum.org) for more information.

## Gifts Green Activity Room

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

**December 6-21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Make useful eco-friendly gifts and ornaments this holiday season. Daily projects include mosaic bird houses, mosaic pots, paper Mache bowls, paper ornaments, gift boxes, and more. Material fees of \$15/bird house, \$10/mosaic pot and \$5/bowl required.

## Santa Claus & Reindeer\* Visit the Museum

**Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. to Noon**

**Sunday, December 7, 1 to 3 p.m.**

Don't miss your chance to tell Santa what you wish for this holiday season and meet his very special reindeer. \*Reindeer only available on Saturday.

## Holiday Cookie Decorating

**Saturday December 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 7, 1 to 3 p.m.**

Join us for some delicious holiday treats provided by Whole Foods Market. Enjoy hot cocoa and decorate your own holiday cookie. Cost: \$3/person. Register at the Admissions Desk on December 6 and 7.

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## Trash to Treasure

**December 26-31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**January 2-4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Turn your holiday wrapping paper trash into treasure at this fun and creative reuse station.

The Nature Museum encourages you to make the holidays brighter for others. Donate new or gently used clothing items to the Salvation Army through a drop box located outside of the Nature Museum entrance.



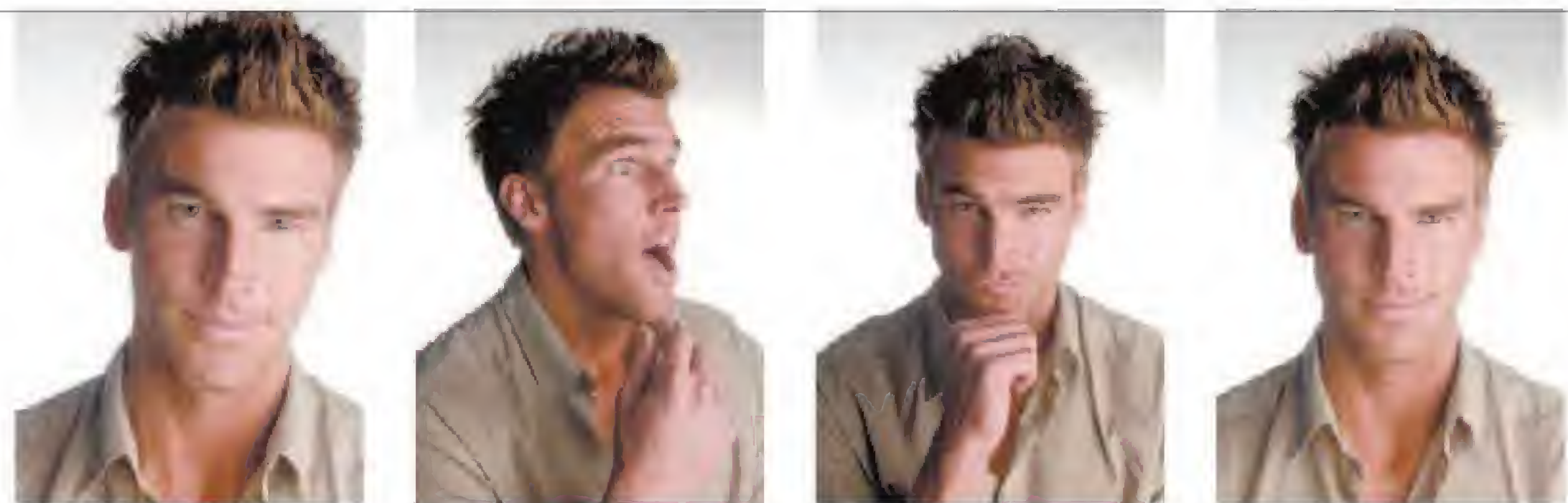
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# cover BOYS



## Chicago's abundance of model clients makes the city a hotbed of hotties

By **Leonor Vivanco**

REDEYE

Two years ago Conor Sedam was rocking a Mohawk at Lollapalooza when a guy approached him and asked if he modeled.

"I thought he was being a jerk and was like, 'No, do you?' And he was like, 'No, you don't understand.' And he gave me his card," Sedam, now 24, said.

Turns out the guy worked for Ford Models in the West Loop.

But Sedam, who lives in Roscoe Village, didn't call until three months later. He was working in construction management for a home builder in Gurnee when a friend in New York urged him to talk to one of the top modeling agencies in the country.

Since then, he's had more than 15 minutes of fame, from posing for catalog photo shoots to strutting down the runway in Paris at influential fashion designer John Galliano's show last January, where his hair was spray-painted gold.

It was then, while getting a manicure and having his hair blow-dried by two hairdressers at the show, that Sedam recalled looking out his window at the Eiffel Tower and thinking: "Whoa, this is a big deal now." But then I was so excited because it was cool and it was so grandiose," he said. He's now a full-time model and coaches hockey on the side.

Even though the winter season tends to be slow for Chicago male models, a few may be



***If you're the kind of person that wants [job] security, wants to know what your future is going to be, wants to know that your job is leading in an upward direction, you're going to be so upset, you're going to be crying in this business."***

**WADE GOTWALS**

Male model

striking a pose when high-fashion runway shows in Milan, Paris and New York start after the New Year.

In the meantime, shoppers now flipping through catalogs and sale ads or surfing Web sites for gifts could be looking at some of Chicago's hottest guys without even knowing it.

Many male models choose to make Chicago their home base as opposed to New York—generally accepted as the nation's fashion capital—because of the Midwest's friendly charm and the abundance of catalog clients nearby, such as Kohl's and Carson Pirie Scott, clients that pay more than magazines, industry insiders said.

Magazine photo shoots give the models exposure, the opportunity to work with photographers and the possibility that the photos will lead to bigger jobs, said Nancy Tennicott, director of runway for Ford Models.

But models can earn from \$1,500 to \$10,000 for an 8- to 10-hour day of catalog work

depending on who they are, how in demand they are, what the product is and where the photos will be seen, Tennicott said.

"There's a lot of work here. You won't necessarily make a ton of money living here, but you can definitely make a nice living," she said.

About 95 percent of the jobs Brian Newman, 32, books are for catalogs, though he's walked the runway at Macy's annual Glamorama



event and has been photographed for a print ad for Hanes underwear.

His first modeling job 10 years ago was a Kohl's catalog shoot in Milwaukee.

"I'm like, 'You know what? I'll just stand there and smile and they'll take my picture. It'll be easy,'" Newman recalled thinking at the time.

But Newman, who lives in Wrigleyville and is represented by Chosen Management, sister company to Elite Chicago, found modeling to be harder than he initially thought.

"We can't ever have an off day. You've got to wake up and you might not be feeling well. But you've still got to show up at 7 a.m. or 6 a.m. call time and look great, be personable, be outgoing, get in front of the camera and take great pictures," said Newman, who is also an aspiring actor.

Male models work in a fiercely competitive environment. The coveted job for guys is an international ad campaign for high-end designers like Dolce & Gabbana, Jil Sander, Versace, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, said David Love, director of Chosen Management. Adding to the high stakes is that there are fewer men's magazines for those campaigns to appear in compared with women's magazines, he said.

And not only is there competition among models to get jobs, but also celebrities are encroaching on their territory, landing in ad campaigns and on magazine covers.

Modeling for men is not as cutthroat as it is for women, Love said. Women have higher visibility and the supermodels are more well-known.

"It's very rare a male model becomes a household name," Love said. Still, agencies





**Brian Newman (center)**  
REDEYE PHOTOS BY CHASE AGNELLO-DEAN

## How true is 'Zoo'?

Do male models practice their best Blue Steel look in the mirror? Not quite. But they do take on weird jobs. And some can be as catty as high school girls. Here are five things uber-hot working models say about their profession.

» **Most awkward photo shoot:** Wade Gotwals was hanging on a rope for six hours in Asia à la Tom Cruise in "Mission: Impossible" for a high-tech gadget that promised to eliminate the need for paper. His stomach was on a bicycle seat, and papers were stacked 6 feet high on his back. "All of my muscles were giving out on me. It was strange," Gotwals said.

» **On the stereotype of models being dumb:** "There are actually a lot of genuine, very intelligent models out there," said Geoff Burns, 23, a Chosen Management model who lives in Andersonville. He has snagged jobs for Guess and Abercrombie & Fitch. But he does have five copies of "Zoolander" he has been given as birthday or holiday gifts.



**Ben Stiller**  
in 'Zoolander'  
AP FILE

» **Divo:** The guy version of a diva is more prominent in high fashion, Gotwals said. Divos complain about what they're wearing, try to fix their hair after it's been styled, turn down good jobs and have a bad attitude, said Nancy Tennicott of Ford Models.

» **Exercise routine:** "I think that's the worst part of the job," model Geoff Burns said. He said he runs 16 miles a week on the treadmill and eats a careful diet, allowing himself a Friday night splurge of pizza and beer.

» **Line given when asked what he does:** "I think it's so superficial and shallow for people to [say], 'Oh, I'm a model.' ... Usually I say I'm a substitute schoolteacher or I'm in advertising," model Brian Newman said.

LEONOR VIVANCO

## Want to be a top male model?

Chicago modeling agents and scouts are extremely selective and typically look for the traditionally good-looking, all-American type. But it has to be a guy with some personality. "We find some amazing, amazing beautiful people, but if they don't have that personality to be able to go in and meet with a client and get that job, and the client will remember them and want to work with them, then it's just not going to work," said Shannon Lang, director of scouting and development at Ford Models. Looking for something more concrete? Here's how else you'll need to measure up:

» **Height:** Ideally 6-foot-1, but the range is roughly 5-foot-11 to 6-foot-2.

» **Chest size:** 40 to 42 inches for catalog work and 36 to 38 inches for fashion shows.

» **Waist size:** 31 to 32 inches

» **Tattoos/piercings:** Not recommended because it can limit the amount of work models get, and it can take away from what models are hired to sell.

» **Abs:** A six-pack is a plus. "Who's going to go out and buy a pair of underwear if the [model pictured] on the box is in his underwear with a beer belly?" said David Love, of Chosen Management.

## Where can you be seen?

Chicago's top tier trio of modeling agencies includes Chosen Management, sister company to Elite Chicago, Ford Models and BMG Models. Models can get discovered on the CTA, at the airport or in restaurants, agencies said.

"We try to go where young kids are, so it may be skate parks or college campuses. It's concerts, wherever we feel we can see a large number of kids, we'll be there," Ford Models' Shannon Lang said.

Plus, agencies accept photos via their Web site and in the mail. They also hold open calls at their offices.

LEONOR VIVANCO

representing male models are clamoring for business.

Chicago agencies used to deal mostly with catalog and advertising agencies in the Midwest, Love said. But with big retailers like Montgomery Ward going out of business and not many new companies springing up, local agencies are trying to book work for their models outside the Midwest to make up for revenue loss, he said. Making competition even stiffer, companies are watching how much they spend on advertising in the slumping economy.

"If you're the kind of person that wants [job] security, wants to know what your future is going to be, wants to know that your job is leading in an upward direction, you're going to be so upset, you're going to be crying in this business," said Wade Gotwals, 40.

Gotwals, a Ford model for 18 years who lives

in Old Town, is an example of one advantage male models have over their female counterparts—longer careers in the industry.

But it's the freedom from a 9-to-5 job that Gotwals said he finds rewarding. When he's not modeling outdoor wear and suits or posing for cell phone and bank ads, he has time to teach yoga and focus on massage therapy.

The city he lives in, meanwhile, has carved out its niche in the modeling world.

"Chicago's a little more like a commercial market. Definitely the guy and girl next door seems to be what's working here," said Jon Coty, owner of local boutique Akira, which hired some local models for its runway shows.

Getting the right model is part of marketing and branding for Akira. "It's important because basically the model reflects the image of the store," Coty said.

The models themselves get booked because

they embody a certain look.

"Some of the clients do want that really great, wholesome, fresh, all-American sort of look, which is really born and bred here in Chicago," said Love of Chosen Management.

Don't count out Chicago as being a good place to get started in modeling, he said. Among male models who catapulted into the spotlight from the area are Jason Shaw and Jarrod Branch. Shaw, who dated Paris Hilton, is known for his work with Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger. Branch has appeared in French and Italian editions of Vogue and worked for Jil Sander and Missoni.

"Chicago is often times looked at as the Midwest and cornfields, but people don't realize some of the top models working in the industry over the last several decades have come from Chicago," Love said.

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM



# Makes you pause

**How curious. What's Obama, a self-proclaimed Mac and iPod guy, doing with a Zune?**

## Chicago Tribune

Here's what we know about President-elect Obama and gadgets:

He loves his BlackBerry. He's a Mac guy, not a PC. He was seen working out with a Zune.

Wait... a Zune? Not an iPod? Is it too late for a recount?

Obama's alleged choice of digital music player has sparked so much buzz in the techie blogosphere that all the incoming traffic briefly crashed the Web site of the Philadelphia paper that broke the story.

"We didn't anticipate this kind of attention," said Drew Lazor, the online editor for **citypaper.net**.

Obama's Zune "was a rather innocuous comment in the original piece," Lazor said of the story by Neal Santos, who spotted the Zune while he worked out Tuesday at the same gym as the president-elect. A tech blogger picked up the Zune mention—in the fourth paragraph—"and it kind of exploded from there," Lazor said.

But according to a blog in the busi-



Obama

ness and technology section on the Wall Street Journal's Web site, a spokesman for Obama settled things once and for all.

"Not true, the president-elect uses an iPod," the spokesman is quoted at **wsj.com**.

And at **citypaper.net**, Santos followed up with, "It could belong to one of the many Secret Service dudes that were at the gym, Michelle, or even one of his daughters."

In an article for Rolling Stone in June, Obama told the magazine that his iPod—HIS iPod—featured artists including Bob Dylan, Yo-Yo-Ma, Sheryl Crow and Jay-Z.

Microsoft's Zune has just a few percentage points of the digital player market, compared to the 70-percent plus share held by iPod and many techies consider it a weak imitation of Apple's music player.

Fans of the iPod want proof of what they consider betrayal by the president-elect, who is known to use that brand. But Obama's camp isn't talking about the rogue Zune.

Meanwhile, posters at the blog Zune Thoughts have been crowing about the possibility.

But perhaps this comment from Gizmodo poster berribrand sums it up best: "Uhm hello. He IS the candidate for CHANGE." **REDEYE CONTRIBUTED.**



## Twitter's take

If Obama's really an iPod guy, well, there had to be a reason he was caught red-handed with a Zune. Right? We decided to

let our Twitter followers come up with a few. Join RedEye's playlist at **twitter.com/redeyechicago**.

**@egspoony** Maybe because Obama is about change?

**@danno1227** He's probably waiting for the Presidential engraving on his iPod.

**@purplepopple** Because Obama is an average joe and makes no pretensions. Plus YAY! Music sharing with Hillary!

**@dkmann** he's going to ask the Gates foundation to bail out Detroit

**@GrantGannon** Because he can't afford Apple's high priced products?

**@ondraceka** cause he doesn't want anyone going through his ipod and seeing that he secretly loves barry manilow and NKOTB.

**@amykchulik** Hil had a Sweatin' to the Crazies mix on her Zune-Bill O'Reilly's "We'll Do it Live!" dance remix & others-& let him borrow it



# CTA track project finishing up soon on North Side

## Chicago Tribune

More CTA trains will flow through a busy North Side corridor later this month when a project overhauling tracks near the Belmont and Fullerton stations is concluded, transit officials said Thursday.

All four tracks will be back in operation by year's end, resulting in a return to normal train-staging procedures that existed before the track project began last year as part of the \$530 million rehabilitation of the Brown Line. Red Line trains will stop on the inside tracks at platforms at Belmont and Fullerton, and Brown Line and Purple

Line/Evanston Express trains will stop on the outside tracks at the stations.

In addition, Purple Line trains downtown will revert back to traveling clockwise around the Loop elevated tracks on Dec. 29, officials said. During the work, Purple Line trains have traveled in the same counter-clockwise direction around the Loop as Brown Line trains.

In other action, the CTA board voted to make permanent experimental service changes introduced in 2006 affecting the West Side and western suburbs.

The board voted to keep the Pink Line

rail service, which replaced the Cermak (Douglas) branch of the Blue Line.

Other changes permanently adopted include increasing service on the Forest Park and O'Hare branches of the Blue Line, as well as reconfiguring and adding a total of 15 bus routes.

Some of the changes, particularly the elimination of the Cermak leg of the Blue Line, have met with criticism from riders.

But CTA officials said rail ridership has increased 19 percent on the West Side corridor and bus ridership has grown 14 percent since the project began.



Work on the North Side CTA tracks is expected to be completed later this month. **PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE FILE**



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## CPS sets up local iTunes playlist

Imagine being a Chicago Public Schools student and having Rickie Lee Jones, the Staple Singers or Bo Diddley belting out songs alongside you at a school assembly?

Boasting musicians that also include Benny "King of Swing" Goodman and mega-Grammy Award winning rapper Kanye West, city schools alumni have put a major stamp on popular music during this century and last.

The district is trying to capitalize on these musical legacies by setting up an iTunes playlist spotlighting 53 songs by musicians who attended Chicago schools at one time or another during their lives.

Here are some highlights from the "Chicago Public Schools Alumni.org" playlist:

- >> "Comin' Home Baby" by Mel Torme/Hyde Park High.
- >> "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" by Lou Rawls/Dunbar High.
- >> "Sun Goddess" by Ramsey Lewis/Wells High.
- >> "Duke of Earl" by Gene Chandler/Englewood High.
- >> "I Believe I Can Fly" by R. Kelly/Kenwood Academy.
- >> "Bo Diddley" by Bo Diddley/Foster Elementary.
- >> "Sanford and Son Theme" by Quincy Jones/Raymond Elementary.
- >> "A Change Is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke/Phillips High.
- >> "Rawhide" by Frankie Laine/Lane Tech.
- >> "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going" by Jennifer Hudson/Kenwood.

## Gun sales soar since election

**SPRINGFIELD** To meet his sales goal last month, Springfield gun shop owner Steve Swartz aimed for \$1,400 a day.

He reached \$2,800 a day.

Granted, November is deer season and hunters didn't get the fever too early this year because the fall was so warm, Swartz said. But he says without question, many people are putting cash on the Capitol City Arms Supply counter because Barack Obama was elected president.

"He puts conditions on what the 2nd Amendment is," Swartz said Thursday. "That's scary to people."

The former Illinois senator's election is behind a surge of gun sales in November, the Illinois State Rifle Association says.

A spokesman for the Illinois State Police confirmed that the agency conducted 24,076 background checks for gun purchases in November, 39 percent more than the 17,363 during the same month a year ago.



Kurt Prinz (left) speaks Wednesday with his son Chris outside their home in Park Ridge. Some suburban residents are complaining about noise since the opening of the new "bad weather" runway at O'Hare last week. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

## O'Hare runway brings the noise

The new "bad weather" runway that opened two weeks ago at O'Hare has been used almost every day, handling up to 350 flights daily and spreading jet noise to outlying suburban neighborhoods where planes formerly flew high overhead.

Such heavy use of the runway wasn't anticipated by airport officials at this early stage of the O'Hare expansion project.

The noise produced by planes landing on the new runway, the first one at O'Hare in 37 years, will be discussed Friday by angry residents from several towns east of O'Hare at a meeting of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission.

When Chicago submitted its final environmental impact statement to the Federal Aviation Administration in 2005, city officials said average daily arrivals on the new north runway would reach about 326 planes a day only when the entire \$15

billion O'Hare expansion is completed, FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said. The expansion is in its initial phase, and the major airlines are pressuring Chicago to re-evaluate the rest of the plan before the carriers give their approval to proceed.

"We are surprised by the level of usage at this point, and we have questions for the FAA and the city," said Brian Gilligan, executive director of the noise commission. "We have not received a response yet."

Planes gradually stepping down their altitude on approach to O'Hare are flying lower than ever before over homes, schools, churches and businesses accustomed more to the sight of planes than to the jet roar.

Airline representatives said they're talking with FAA officials to see what, if anything, can be done to protect the quality of life in nearby towns.

### Crash injures 4 children

Four children were hospitalized Thursday after they were hit by a car on the Far South Side. Three children were taken to Advocate Trinity Hospital with what police described as minor injuries, but the fourth was taken to University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital in serious to critical condition. The children were struck in the 700 block of East 103rd Street near a Metra station shortly before 8 a.m., Officer Daniel O'Brien said.

### R. Kelly's nephew indicted

R. Kelly's nephew has been indicted for allegedly shooting a barbershop owner during a failed robbery in Calumet City. Police say Brayel Kelly, 16, of Calumet City, the son of R. Kelly's brother, Carey Kelly, went to a barbershop on Nov. 6 and demanded the owner's jewelry and money. When the owner grabbed his own weapon, police say the suspect and victim fired at each other. Police found Kelly nearby with a gunshot wound to the back.

### Faulty license plates

The Illinois secretary of state office is sending letters to some auto owners to inform them their license plates could be faulty. According to the secretary of state's office, it was discovered in 2004 that some plates issued in previous years could rust, making the plates' reflective coating ineffective. License plates are currently made of aluminum and won't rust. But some issued in 2001 and 2002 were made of steel. People can change out problematic plates free of charge.

### Man killed on West Side

A man was shot and killed Wednesday night in the 900 block of North Lawler Avenue on the West Side, police said Thursday. A pedestrian flagged down officers about 9:10 p.m. to report that a man had been shot, police said. Christopher Hanford, 19, was pronounced dead about 35 minutes later at a hospital.

**DIGIT**

**\$148,000**

The City of Chicago spent more than \$148,000 in response to the winter storm on Wednesday, according to the city's Department of Streets and Sanitation.



# Southport Bar Owners proudly present the Holiday Crawl. All proceeds go to Toys for Tots!



11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

\$3 Bud Light Drafts

5:30 - 6:30 PM

\$2.50 Bud Light Drafts



12:15 - 1:00 PM

\$2.50 Bud Light Bottles

6:30 - 7:15 PM

\$3 Bud Light Drafts and FREE PIZZA



1:00 - 1:45 PM

\$2.50 Bud & Bud Light Bottles

7:15 - 8:00 PM

\$2.50 Bud Light Bottles

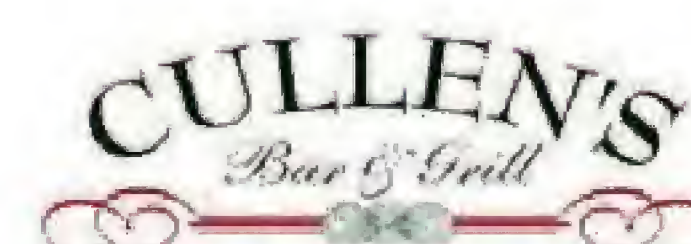


1:45 - 2:30 PM

\$3 All Bud Products

8:00 - 8:45 PM

\$3 Bud & Bud Light Bottles



2:30 - 3:15 PM

\$2.50 Bud Light Bottles

8:45 - 9:30 PM

\$3 Bud Light Bottles



3:15 - 4:00 PM

\$2.50 Bud Light Bottles

9:30 - 10:15 PM

\$2.50 Bud Light Bottles



4:00 - 4:45 PM

\$3.00 Bud Products

10:15 - 11:00 PM

\$3 Bud & Bud Light Bottles



4:45 - 6:30 PM

\$3 Bud Light Bottles



# Sending gifts? You better hurry

The deadlines are approaching fast if you want your holiday presents to arrive on time

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

The holidays are weeks away, but the deadlines for sending gift packages are rapidly approaching.

The Postal Service estimates it will handle about 25 million letters and cards in the Chicago area during the holiday season, Postal Service spokesman Mark Reynolds said. UPS and FedEx wouldn't forecast how much traffic they expect to see.

All three mail delivery services recommend sending packages and cards early to ensure they will make it to their destinations on time. UPS spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said there's no recommended deadline for sending packages by standard delivery (not the case for rush delivery), though customers should check [ups.com](http://ups.com) to see how long it will take for the package to arrive.

Meanwhile, the Postal Service anticipates Dec. 15 will be its busiest mailing day and Dec. 17 its busiest delivery day, Reynolds said.

Customers should follow recommended postal deadlines but also know the proper way to package and send their mail, the delivery services advise.

Here are a few tips from the Postal Service:

- >> Write, type or print the complete address neatly, and always use a complete return address. Since improperly wrapped packages sometimes fall apart during shipment, it's a good idea to include a card inside the package with a return address and a description of the items.
- >> Cushion the contents of the package with shredded or rolled-up newspaper, bubble wrap or Styrofoam packing peanuts.
- >> Always use tape that is designed for shipping. Never use string or twine to secure a package.
- >> Remove batteries from toys. Wrap and place them next to the toys in the mailing container.
- >> Carefully pack glass and fragile items, like vases, with newspaper or packing material to avoid damage. When mailing framed photographs, take the glass out of the frame and wrap it separately. [TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM](mailto:TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM)

## DEADLINES FOR DELIVERY

Recommended deadlines for mailing holiday gifts and cards on time.

**Dec. 11:** Postal Service deadline for military mail to overseas destinations besides Iraq or Afghanistan

**Dec. 16:** Postal Service deadline for parcel post

**Dec. 17:** FedEx deadline for ground delivery by Christmas

**Dec. 19:** UPS deadline for three-day service

**Dec. 20:** Postal Service deadline for first-class mail and priority mail

**Dec. 22:** UPS deadline for second-day service

**Dec. 23:** Postal Service deadline for express mail for Christmas Day delivery; UPS and FedEx deadline for next-day service for Dec. 24 delivery

### AT O'HARE

FedEx and the Postal Service each have locations at the airport.

### KEY TO THE MAP

The map shows the locations for the Postal Service, FedEx and UPS outposts. Stand-alone drop-off boxes are not included.

- Postal Service (76 sites)
- FedEx (67 sites)
- UPS (52 sites)

### BREAKING IT DOWN

A look at the U.S. Postal Service's holiday traffic by the numbers.

**19 billion:** The number of cards, letters and packages to be delivered between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**960 million:** Pieces of mail processed on Dec. 15, the busiest mailing day of the year.

**126 million:** The increase in the number of pieces of mail processed during the holidays than the rest of the year.

**214,500:** Vehicles used to transport holiday mail.

**130 million:** Customers who visit a U.S. post office during the holidays.





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### Wall Street turns cautious

**1** A period of relative calm on Wall Street ended in the last hour of trading Thursday as stocks tumbled more than 300 points amid growing investor anxiety about the government's key November employment report. **AP PHOTO**

### Song of the South

**2** Leaving on a jet plane? Is the waiting the hardest part? Try airport karaoke. Houston's Bush International Airport is setting up karaoke booths for travelers, just in time for the holidays.

### Landmark club burns

**3** A fire erupted Thursday at the Body Shop, a landmark strip club in West Hollywood, Calif., included in the Motley Crue song "Girls, Girls, Girls." Firefighters don't believe anyone was in the building at the time of the fire.

### Hidden money

**4** U.S. agents said Thursday they caught three men trying to fly out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, with \$230,000 hidden in their luggage. It is a federal offense not to declare currency worth \$10,000 or more when leaving or entering the U.S. or its territories.

### Soldiers killed

**5** Suicide bombers killed 17 people—including two American soldiers—and wounded more than 100 in a string of blasts in two Iraqi cities Thursday as a timetable for withdrawing all U.S. troops won final government approval.

### Bratz future in doubt

Pouty-lipped Bratz will stay on store shelves until after the holidays, but their fate after that—and that of their parent, MGA Entertainment—was uncertain Thursday after a federal court ruling banning MGA from making the saucy Barbie alternative.



### DIGIT

## 12,000

Pressured by the economic turmoil and the mounting loss of traditional phone customers, AT&T is cutting this many jobs, about 4 percent of its workforce.

# Indian airports on high alert

**6** **MUMBAI** Airports in India went on high alert Thursday following fresh attack warnings as officials said India suspects two senior leaders of a banned Pakistani militant group orchestrated the deadly Mumbai attacks.

The alert came as Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari promised the U.S. secretary of state his country would take "strong action" against any elements in Pakistan involved in last week's siege.

The new alert that warned of possible airborne attacks focused on three major airports—New Delhi, Bangalore and

Chennai—but security was stepped up across India. No details about the threat were released.

"This is a warning which we have received. We are prepared as usual," India's air force chief, Fali Homi Major, told reporters.

The British Broadcasting Corp. cited unconfirmed reports from airport officials as saying late Thursday that up to six gunmen had been shot and killed at New Delhi's international airport. But Indian police told The Associated Press there was a minor incident and no deaths.

Officials continued to probe the attacks.

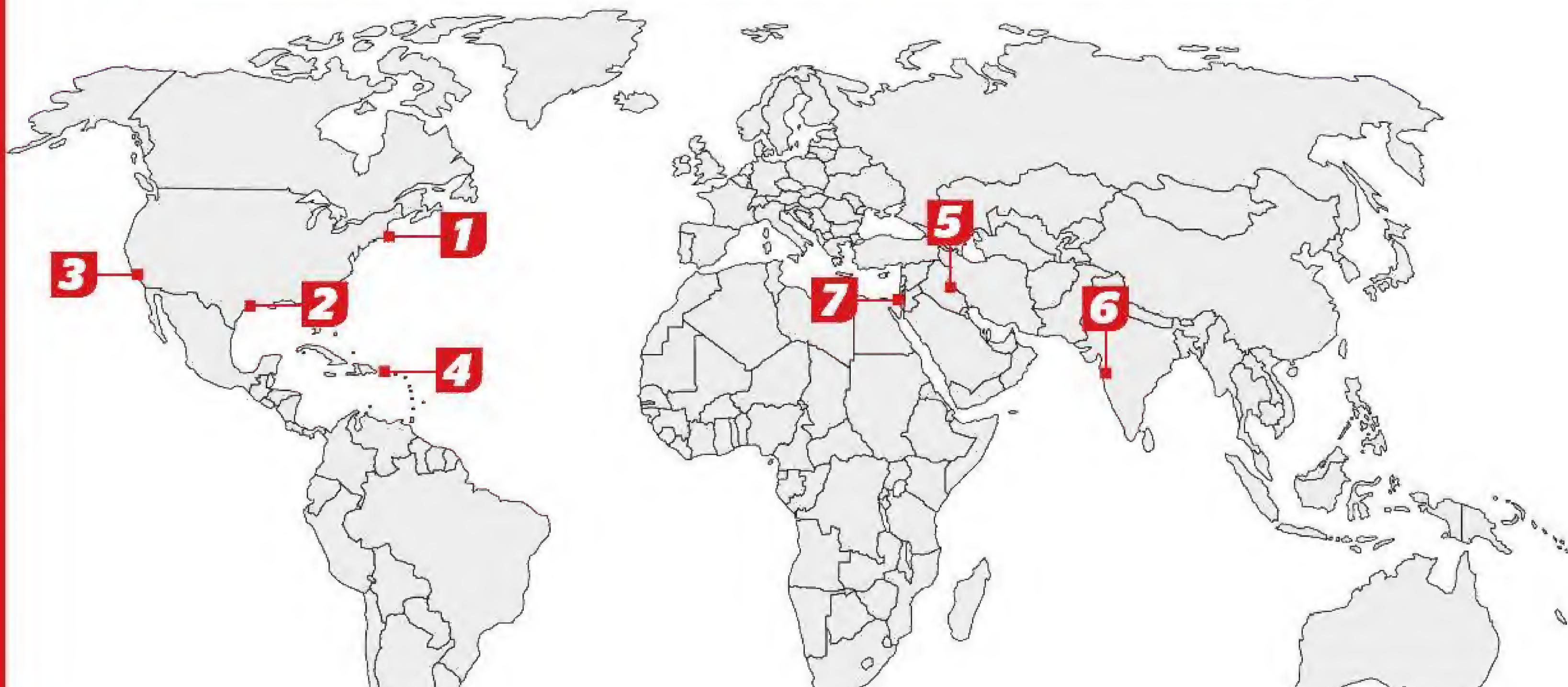
Evidence collected in probes so far has pointed to two members of outlawed Pakistani group Lashkar-e-Taiba as masterminds in the attacks, according to two Indian government officials familiar with the matter.

The men, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Yusuf Muzammil, are believed to be in Pakistan, the officials said. Lakhvi was identified as the group's operations chief and Muzammil as its operations chief in Kashmir and other parts of India.



## Rioting in the West Bank

**7** **HEBRON, West Bank** An Israeli police officer pulls two Jewish settlers Thursday during an evacuation of a disputed house. Rioting by Jewish settlers is spreading in the West Bank after Israeli soldiers forcibly removed about 250 extremists. Violence quickly spread to other parts of the West Bank. **AP PHOTO**





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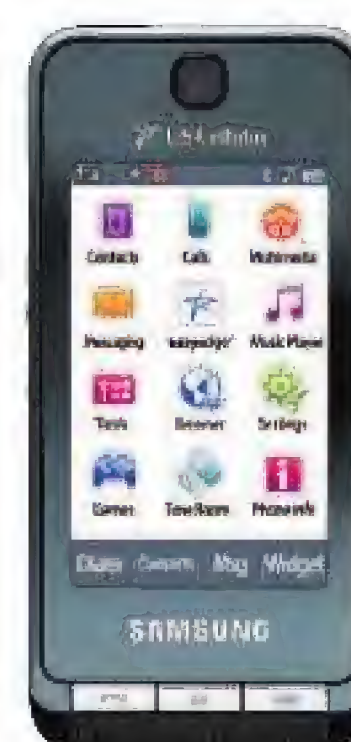
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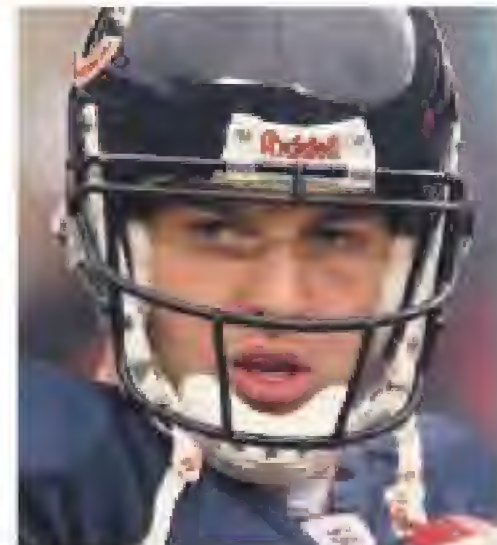
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# sports

## Then and now

The Bears play at Soldier Field for the first time since Nov. 9, when they lost to the then-undefeated Titans. Now, of course, the Titans have lost a game and the Bears are on the verge of being all but eliminated from the playoffs. What else has changed since that last home game? Take a look. **REDEYE**



### THEN ...

Kyle Orton watched Rex Grossman from the sidelines with an injured ankle.

### ... NOW

Grossman watches a still-limited Orton from the sidelines.

### THEN ...

Tommie Harris didn't like the media too much.

### ... NOW

Tommie Harris says he loves the media. Aww, shucks.

### THEN ...

Robert Pattinson was a relative nobody before "Twilight."

### ... NOW

Pattinson is a bloody big deal after "Twilight."

### THEN ...

"Chinese Democracy" was a mythical album by Guns N' Roses.

### ... NOW

"Chinese Democracy" is a real-life flop by Guns N' Roses.

### THEN ...

Pacman Jones was the poster boy for NFL bad boys.

### ... NOW

Plaxico Burress is the poster boy for NFL bad boys.

### THEN ...

We thought Derrick Rose was good.

### ... NOW

We know Rose is better than good. Great perhaps.

Kyle Orton and the Bears have struggled throwing the ball lately. **MCT**



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Bears vs.  
Jacksonville  
Noon Sunday, CBS

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# Passing out

## Bears' air game struggling as decisive stretch arrives

### Associated Press

Considering he left the field on a cart with a sprained right ankle last month, Bears quarterback Kyle Orton has a ready-made excuse for his recent struggles.

Not that he would use it.

While his ankle injury didn't help, the Bears (6-6) aren't exactly getting healthy contributions from their

receivers lately. With a chance to take control of the NFC North, the Bears stumbled badly last week in a 34-14 loss at Minnesota and fell a game behind the Vikings in the division.

Their quarterback had his worst game, and instead of bailing him out, the receivers dropped passes and got locked up by the defense. Now, the team that can't seem to catch the ball is playing catch-up.

"Obviously, it doesn't take a genius to point out that we're not really executing, not doing too well right now, especially in the passing game," tight end Greg Olsen said.

Orton clearly hasn't been himself since he got carted off the field near the end of the first half against Detroit on Nov. 2. He sat out against Tennessee the following week and has been just a 49 percent passer (41-for-83) the past three games with three touchdowns and three interceptions—all of them coming at Minnesota last week.

It was an uncharacteristically sloppy night for Orton, who had gone six games without getting picked off. That streak ended in the third quarter when Darren Sharper picked off a ball intended for Brandon Lloyd that was badly underthrown, but the problems surfaced earlier.

He overthrew Olsen on first down at the Minnesota 1 with a 7-3 lead in the second quarter, and after three failed runs, the Bears saw Minnesota's Gus Frerotte and Bernard Berrian hook up for a 99-yard touchdown. Just like that, the Vikings had the momentum.

The Bears were within three in the third quarter but couldn't sustain the momentum on a night when Orton

was just 11-for-29 with 153 yards and got sacked three times by Jared Allen. He continued to hit defenders rather than receivers after that interception by Sharper, with the second one going right to Ben Leber in the fourth quarter and setting up a touchdown that put the game out of reach.

And the third?

Orton threw behind Lloyd and Benny Sapp caught the deflected ball.

"When Kyle got hurt and missed that game, it kind of disrupted the rhythm," offensive coordinator Ron Turner said. "That's not a knock on Rex (Grossman); the rhythm of the offense was disrupted a little bit."

With four games left and a playoff spot hanging in the balance,

the Bears have little time left to find it.

They have not passed for more than 173 yards the past five games, and a receiving corps that was effective early on shares the blame. The Bears still don't have a bona fide go-to target, and lately, teams are playing more man-to-man than zone.

"They've been aggressive with us, there's no question about it," Orton said. "It's a little different. It takes off the timing a little bit, but in the end, it's just about making plays."

## The Whiz Quiz

Think you know your stuff? Then test your sports smarts against RedEye's prognosticating pooch Whizzer. Bears QB Kyle Orton says the Bears have to win their last four games. When is the last time the Bears won four games in a row? Text "quiz" and the number of your answer to **47383**. I'll text ya back to tell you if you got it right or wrong.

1. 2007
2. 2006
3. 2004
4. 2000
5. 1992

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**txtable**



## This roster is loaded with bull

This is painful, but it has to be done.

It's time for a brutal assessment of the Bulls roster. Warning: Beyond Derrick Rose, there isn't much.

Ben Gordon. He can't create his own shot. That's fine, except he can't play defense and can't handle the ball.

Luol Deng. This is called regression. No one knows what happened—used to be possibly a great player. Now he's a role player. I think playing for the British national team killed him—too much tea during timeouts.

Tyrus Thomas—maybe, possibly, if the stars align—could be a good player. One problem: He can't hit anything beyond 2 feet.

Joakim Noah. Can't pass, dribble, shoot, play defense, rebound, run up and down the court, doesn't really know the game. Beyond that, he's fine.

Andres Nocioni. Used to be a good hustler—now, I have no idea.

Kirk Hinrich. The fact I honestly forgot about him while he was hurt says it all.

Larry Hughes. Good. Not \$13 million good, though.

Aaron Gray. Solid center, knows the game, strong fundamentals. Too bad we never see him.

Drew Gooden. I think the guy's a keeper. Looks good with Derrick Rose on the court.

Derrick Rose. We're watching someone special here—not just a great player, but a good, solid citizen of the game. So rare in the NBA.

So there you have it—11 or so guys who are seventh or eighth men in a typical rotation and Derrick Rose. I say trade every last one of them to get one stud to play alongside Rose. Then, fill in with draft picks and other unwanted free agents. Sounds crazy, but you would win at least 50 games.

So tear it down. That's what the White Sox do, even when they win the division. So long, Javy Vazquez. I almost liked you, you were almost good, and you were almost tough enough to make a difference. Now, your almos head to Atlanta. We got a bunch of almos in return.

Speaking of almost. The NFL almost suspended the Vikings' Williamses in time for the Bears game—but they didn't. Oh, well—the good news is they may miss the rest of the season, and we still can win this thing.

That doesn't make the Bears good—but it almost does.

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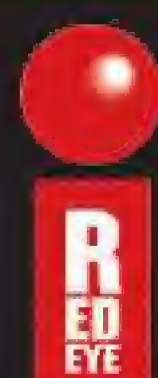


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- |  |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Rate the importance of Sunday's Bears game on your personal scale.      | On a scale of 1-10, I give it 8 Heather Grahams.                       | My scale doesn't go that high.  | It gets a "holy \$&#!*" on my Ditka scale.                                 | Hair gel scale: 1=wet look and 10=x-treme durahold. I give it a 2—a slippery situation. | On a scale from one to forty-two, I rate the importance at eleven-teen.                |
| <b>2</b> Let's give Matt Forte a nickname.                                       | Vickie.  | Bears' silver lining.   | Matt Forte-Four. That's how many touchdowns he could score this week.      | Matt "I'm the only reason the Bears aren't winless" Forte                               | We're done with Drew Gooden? I wanted SpongeDrew SquareBeard to catch on.              |
| <b>3</b> If you were an NFL mascot, whom would you be?                           | Any mascot from a defunct team so I wouldn't have to be an NFL mascot. | Umm, I don't do the furry thing so well. I'll stick with the foam finger. | One of the Cincinnati Prisoners.   | A glock with the safety off.  | I'll tell you who I wouldn't be—a Washington Racial Slurs. This is our capital, folks. |
| <b>4</b> What product would use your name and likeness illegally in advertising? | Greenfield feminine products.  | A candy bar—cause I'm so darn sweet. Aww.                                 | Any shoe brand. I'm always getting walked all over.                        | Any bars want to sponsor me? This economy is eating into my drinking money. E-mail me.  | Not me, but Doug Mankiewicz might have an infringement case against a topical cream.   |
| <b>5</b> Who is Manny Pacquiao?  | The name of the first greyhound dog to ever win the Kentucky Derby.    | The guy who's gonna make boxing the sport to watch. Or not.               | The guy who's gonna punch out all these jokers for making fun of his name. | Salsa-flavored mayonnaise.  | Larry Merchant's cabana boy. Do boxers have a sense of humor?                          |



## FIVE ON FIVE comes to FACEBOOK

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Go to [redye.chicago.com/facebookfives](http://redye.chicago.com/facebookfives)

Make us laugh and we'll invite YOU to appear in Friday's Five on Five. We're talkin' the big leagues.



**Jimmy Greenfield**

**Phillip Thompson**

**Tracy Swartz**

**Leo Ebersole**

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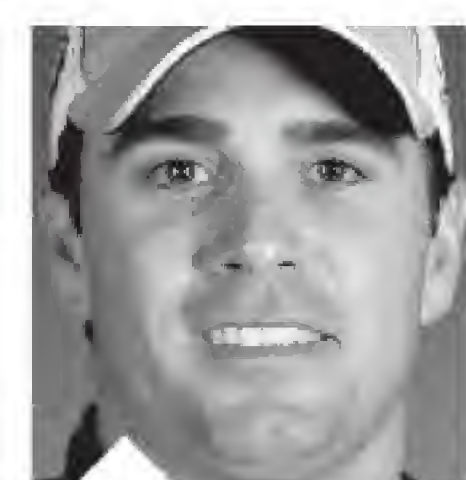
**watch  
dog**

**WHIZZER**  
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I'm ashamed to admit this: I'll be all over the NFL this weekend, not because the Bears are in a must-win or because I have money on the Jets, but because my fantasy football team plays in the first round of the playoffs.

It's the only time of the year you'll see me rooting for Aaron Rodgers and Ryan Grant of the Packers.

I'm a de facto Cheesehead for a day. Here now, my TV picks.



### NASCAR Sprint Cup Awards ceremony

8 p.m. ESPN CLASSIC  
Watch Jimmie Johnson get a check for millions while you shop the clearance rack at Payless.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL MAC title game, Ball St. vs. Buffalo

7 p.m. ESPN2  
This will be the best football—NFL or otherwise—played in Detroit all year.

### NBA Portland at Boston

7 p.m. ESPN  
The defending champs meet the reigning champs.



# Seeing is not believing



**JIMMY GREENFIELD**  
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HD sets.

But the NFL isn't going to be assuaged by the past failures of 3-D.

Officials will roll it out, it won't make a dime, then it'll go back into hibernation until a few years later somebody else will decide that, drumroll, PEOPLE WILL LOVE 3-D!

You know what else isn't going to happen? Here's a brief list:

#### Soccer becoming America's pastime

I know kids like playing soccer. I liked playing soccer. Something tells me, however, soccer is healthy on the youth level because it's a piece of cake for parents.

There's no real equipment, it's a nice way to socialize, and, best of all, it's easy to find a spot on the field for the kids who aren't very good.

But this beef is with pro soccer. Pele and David Beckham couldn't dent America's ambivalence toward soccer, and the sport can't

Come on, 3-D? Again?

For what seems like the 20th time during my lifetime alone, some group has gotten together and decided to convince us 3-D is going to blow us away.

Well, you know what? It isn't. Nobody's going to care about your new 3-D technology, not if it means having to pay to watch a game that's already pretty awesome on these newfangled

compete with football, baseball, basketball, golf, auto racing or even hockey.

#### Oprah's downfall

RedEye ran a cover story about this very topic just last month, but not everybody here is an advocate for every story we run.

The truth is Oprah is beloved—and for all the right reasons.

She's altruistic, sincere, cares deeply about helping people and is almost always an open book. Oprah's lows are higher than everybody else's highs. So let's stop pretending the public is in any way turning on her.

#### Variety becoming the next TV craze

We're way too ironic and cynical to ever allow song and dance sandwiched between light comedy to enter our lives again.

Martin Short tried a variation on this in the '90s, and Rosie O'Donnell just publicly humiliated herself last week.

The genre is dead. Let it rest in peace and reruns.

#### Gingrich as a viable presidential candidate

Every election cycle, pundits ask Gingrich whether he'll run for president.

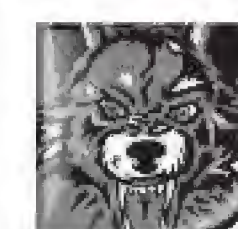
Look, he's got zero charisma, no chance of wooing Democrats or independents, he admitted having an affair during the Clinton impeachment hearings and, according to his ex-wife, asked her to sign divorce papers while she was in a hospital recovering from cancer surgery.

Let's adopt a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for Newt in 2012.

## HOMETOWN HITS



Len Kasper was a relative unknown when he replaced Chip Caray as the TV voice of the Cubs before the 2005 season. But it didn't take long for Kasper to make a name for himself, and the Cubs rewarded him Thursday with a three-year contract extension through 2011.



### NEXT GAME at Peoria

7 p.m. Friday

## THURSDAY'S RESULTS

» Millikin 70, SIU-Edwardsville 59  
» Eastern Illinois 71, Tennessee State 61

## HIT AND RUN

### BASEBALL

#### MLB salary growth slows

Baseball salary growth started to slow this year even before the economy cooled. The average salary in Major League Baseball this season was \$2.93 million, the players' association said Thursday in its annual report. The 3.6 percent increase was the smallest since 2004.

### NFL

» San Diego 34, Oakland 7

## COPS AND JOCKS

*Athletes can't seem to stay out of trouble, and we can't seem to look away.*



### Pierce to cooperate if asked

Antonio Pierce didn't know New York Giants teammate Plaxico Burress was carrying a gun last weekend until it

accidentally discharged, injuring the receiver in the right thigh, Pierce's attorney said Thursday. "He had no idea Plaxico had a weapon," attorney Michael Bachner said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. Bachner said Pierce would cooperate with authorities and testify before a Manhattan grand jury about the incident if asked to testify, which has yet to happen.

## MASCOT MANIA

*Because the characters on the field are only surpassed by the fuzzy, furry and feathered characters cheering for them.*

### DUI sidelines Penn St. mascot

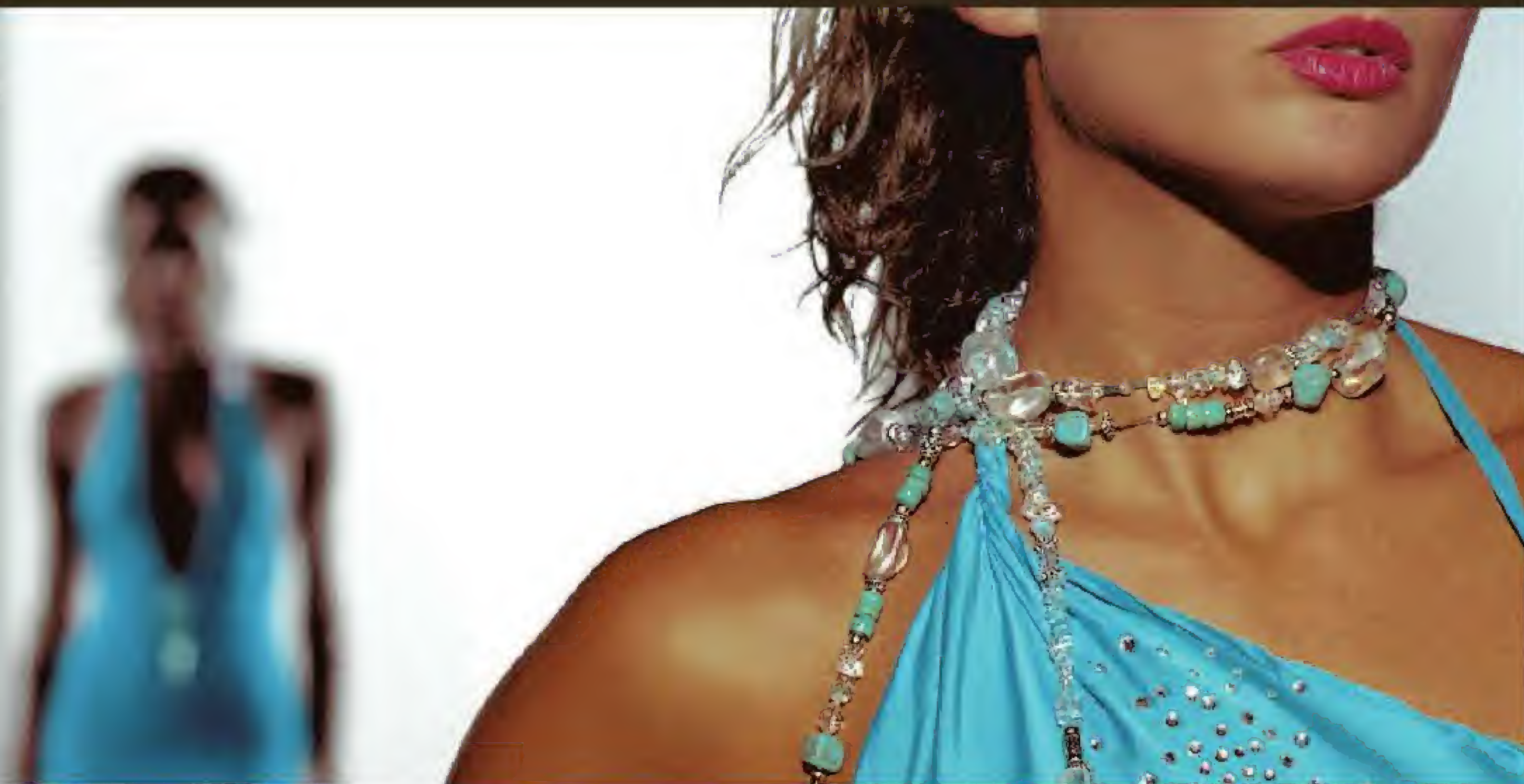
The Penn State senior who plays the Nittany Lion mascot will miss the Rose Bowl after being suspended for violating team rules. The school suspended James Sheep, of Chambersburg, Pa., on Thursday, a week and a half after he was charged with DUI. The university says Sheep will not participate in school events or attend the Rose Bowl game or events. Penn State cheerleading coach Curt White says Sheep will resume his duties in 2009.





# thread lounge

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Dolce & Gabbana Men  
Elizabeth Gillett  
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Ed Hardy  
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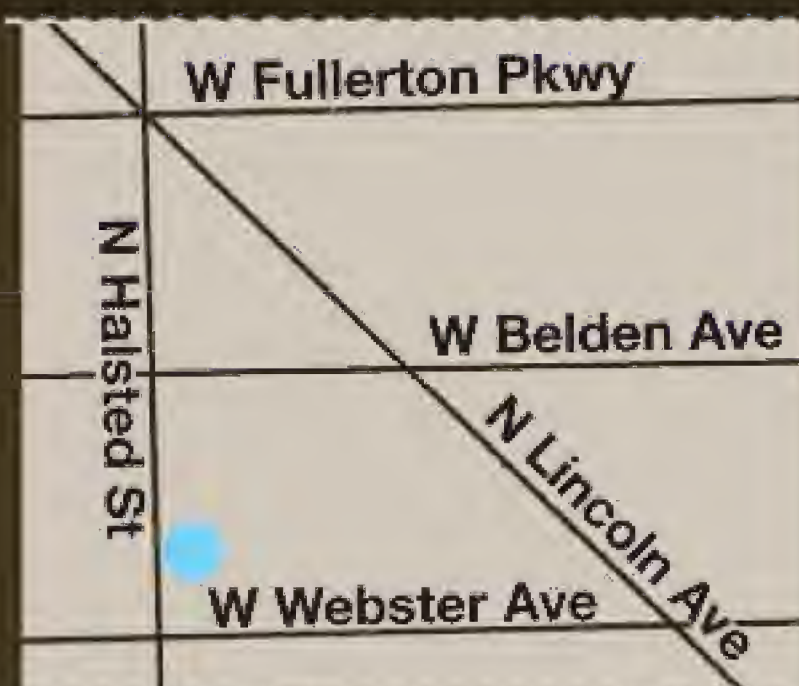
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## PARTY PICKS

**Good cause**

Get merry for charity—and score a date, to boot—at **Santa Cause 4**. Jonathan Keaton of local improv troupe Pimprov and radio personality Matt Abattacola of WSCR (670-AM) host the benefit, featuring a date auction of 25 eligible singles—including Joey Kovar of “The Real World XX: Hollywood” and DJ Angi Taylor of WKSC (103.5-FM). Don a Bad Santa costume for a chance to win \$50 and buy \$5 raffle tickets for possible concert tickets and other prizes. 7 p.m. Friday. \$15 benefits The Keep On Keeping On Foundation. Sluggers Sports Bar & Dueling Pianos, 3540 N. Clark St. 773-248-0055.

**Full swing**

The year 1933 comes roaring back for **Moonshine's Repeal Day Party**. Dress as a flapper or gangster and toast the 75th anniversary of Prohibition's end with \$3 pints of Moonshine's new brew, Chronic, while a DJ and saxophonist play Prohibition-era tunes and swing dancers perform (9 p.m.). You can also thumb wrestle and play themed crosswords for a shot at an old-time shave, shoeshine or cocktail. Also features giveaways and a Dewar's toast. 8 p.m. Friday. No cover. 1824 W. Division St. 773-862-8686.

# 'Tis the season



## 7 spirited ways to eat, drink and be merry

### PICK OF THE WEEK

**Loud and proud**

Does your favorite holiday sweater jingle, jangle, sparkle or shine? Put it to use at the **Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl Chicago**. The benefit bar hop starts at Sheffield's before hitting five more Lakeview bars, including Trader Todd's and Uncle Fatty's Rum Resort. Get drink specials at each spot and cash prizes for “ugliest top” and “biggest fundraiser.” 11:30 a.m. Saturday. \$25-\$30 benefits local hunger programs and charities. 3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 913-638-8107. Registration and donations: [giveforward.org](http://giveforward.org)

**weekend best bets**

By Beth Geraci  
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

## BEST OF THE REST

**Wicker walk**

Shop locally—and save money while you do it—at the **Do Division Holiday Walk** in Wicker Park. Nearly 40 shops, bars and restaurants along a 10-block stretch of Division Street, from Ashland Avenue to Leavitt Street, offer discounts on merchandise, food and drinks, plus free carriage rides. Get up to 50 percent off footwear at Pump, \$5 bloody marys at The Boundary and more. Noon Saturday. Free. 312-850-9390.

**Holiday lineup**

Catch some Christmas spirit at the **63rd Street Holiday Parade**. A crowd of about 25,000 is expected at the 29th annual procession, featuring the Jesse White

Tumblers, bands, floats, an appearance by Santa and more. The parade steps off at 63rd Street and Tripp Avenue before heading east on 63rd Street to Oakley Avenue. 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Free.

**Get crafty**

If your jolly plan to make everyone's Christmas gift isn't going so well, don't fret: You still can gift indie with handmade wares from more than 150 local, national and international artists at the **Renegade Craft Fair Holiday Sale**. Handmade jewelry, clothing, stationery, comics and more are on offer at the third annual bazaar. Also features DJs, food from TopsyCake and Treat Restaurant and a Saturday performance from Mucca Pazza at 3:30 p.m. 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free. Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, 1419 W. Blackhawk St. 773-227-2707.

**Toy drive**

Get revved for the **31st Annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade**, a 20-mile, rolling toy drive in which thousands of motorcyclists deliver gifts to the Marine Corps Reserve Center (3034 W. Foster Ave.). If you don't have a hog, you can participate by bringing toys to the Dan Ryan Woods, the Marine Corps Reserve Center or anywhere along the Western Avenue parade route, from 83rd Street to Foster Avenue. Line-up for riders begins at 6 a.m.; ride departs at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Free admission for riders with a toy donation (no stuffed animals, please). Dan Ryan Woods, 8300 S. Western Ave. 773-866-8697.



**Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade**



**Brew & View**

at The Vic Theatre

www.BrewView.com  
3145 N. Sheffield  
at Belmont

**Miller**  
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18 & over to enter  
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for the  
Movies

Movies, TV and more  
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Cannot combine with other plan special selection only.

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Complete pair with eye exam

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“A beat-rific, rhyme-tastic,  
scat-acular adaptation  
of Charles Dickens  
'A Christmas Carol'”

“The Hipmas Carol is my  
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For a complete list of shows and times, visit [www.headcheesefatboss.com](http://www.headcheesefatboss.com)

**ADDICTION SPORTS  
BAR AND GRILL**

\$4 Harp, Bass and  
Guinness bottles, \$5  
glasses of wine, \$7  
all-you-can-eat fish  
fry; 1023 W. Lake St.,  
Chicago, 312-421-8845.

**BLUE LINE**

**LOUNGE AND GRILL**  
\$3 Stella Artois bottles;  
1548 N. Damen Ave.  
773-395-3700.

**THE CENTRAL**

\$5 martinis, \$5 Bacardi  
bombs, \$5 appetizers;  
3466 N. Clark St. 773-  
880-2222.

**THE DARK HORSE  
TAP AND GRILLE**

\$3 20-ounce Guinness  
and Smithwick's pints,  
\$5 fish and chips; 3443  
N. Sheffield Ave. 773-  
248-4400.

**DELILAH'S**

\$3 Labatt Blue pints  
and Maker's Mark  
cocktails; 2771 N.  
Lincoln Ave. 773-472-  
2771.

**THE DUGOUT**

\$3 Captain, Stoli and  
Three Olives cocktails,  
\$4 jager bombs; 950  
W. Addison St. 773-281-  
4213.

**EMERALD LOOP**

\$9.95 roast turkey  
dinners, \$4.50 beer of  
the month drafts; 216 N.  
Wabash Ave. 312-263-  
0200.

**ENCLAVE**

9 p.m.: Movember.  
Guys, sport a 'stache  
for this prostate cancer  
fundraiser, named after  
the Aussie appellation  
for mustache, "mo."  
Admission includes a  
hosted bar (9-11 p.m.).  
Playboy Playmates  
Christina Santiago  
and Tiffany Selby host.  
The guy with the best  
'stache wins the title  
"Man of Movember"  
and two tickets to a  
party at the Playboy  
Mansion (airfare not  
included). \$20; 220 W.  
Chicago Ave. 312-654-  
0234.

**GARRETT RIPLEY'S**

Complimentary  
snacks 5-7 p.m.; 712  
N. Clark St. 312-642-  
2900.

**GOODBAR**

\$5 martinis and bombs;  
2512 N. Halsted St. 773-  
296-9700.

**Repeal Day parties**



**Le Passage & the Drawing Room**  
FILE FOR METROMIX

**LE PASSAGE & THE  
DRAWING ROOM**

10 p.m.: Repeal Day  
Party. A celebration  
of the 1933 date  
Prohibition ended  
includes \$33 cocktail  
flights inspired by  
the '30s, music from  
the era and more. No  
cover; 937 N. Rush  
St. 312-255-0022.

**KELLY'S PUB**

5:30 p.m.: Whiskey  
Rebellion. A benefit  
bash for Irish  
organization, the  
Ancient Order of  
Hibernians, includes  
\$2 domestic drafts  
and bottles and  
\$2 well drinks. \$33  
suggested donation;  
949 W. Webster Ave.

773-732-1771.

**FION WINE & SPIRITS**

7 p.m.: Ardbeg Scotch  
tasting. Sample  
Ardbeg Scotch in  
honor of Repeal Day,  
the 75th anniversary  
of the end of  
Prohibition. Free; 426  
W Diversey Pkwy. 773-  
549-5400.

**HAMBURGER MARY'S**

\$4.50 Fat Tire pints, \$5  
Mary's Punch cocktails;  
5400 N. Clark St. 773-  
784-6969.

**HAMILTON'S PUB**

\$6 fish and chips, \$3.50  
Goose Island 312 drafts,  
\$13 Goose Island 312  
pitchers, \$3.75 Bacardi  
cocktails; 6341 N.  
Broadway. 773-764-  
8133.

**INNJOY**

\$4 Heineken and  
Amstel Light bottles,  
\$6 Jager bombs; 2051  
W. Division St. 773-394-  
2066.

**MICKEY'S TAVERN**

\$2 Miller Lite bottles,  
\$2.50 Sierra Nevada  
Pale Ale bottles; 2345  
N. Leavitt St. 773-394-  
3037.

**MURPHY'S  
BLEACHERS**

7 p.m.: Lakeview Pantry  
Toy Drive: The Damn  
Hoovers play live rock  
at this holiday benefit.  
Guests receive a raffle  
ticket for every toy  
they donate. Prizes,  
worth about \$10,000 in  
all, include restaurant  
gift certificates, signed  
memorabilia, cookware  
and more. Raffles take  
place at 9:30 and 11  
p.m. \$10 or a wrapped  
new toy; 3655 N.

Sheffield Ave. 773-281-  
5356.

**O'DONOVAN'S**

30 cent wings, \$3.50  
Bud and Bud Light  
bottles, \$12 giant 24-  
ounce cocktails; 2100  
W. Irving Park Rd. 773-  
478-2100.

**OLE LOUNGE**

\$4 caipirinhas, live  
Brazilian music by  
Bossa Tres and samba  
dancers, half-price  
select tapas (5-7 p.m.);  
2812 N. Lincoln Ave.  
773-388-3500.

**THE ORBIT ROOM**

\$4 SKA True Blonde  
bottles, \$9 fish and  
chips dinners; 2959 N.  
California Ave. 773-588-  
8540.

**THE ORIGINAL  
MOTHER'S**

\$3 Sex on the Beach  
cocktails, DJs spin 10  
p.m.; 26 W. Division St.  
312-642-7251.

**PADDY LONG'S**

\$3 SoCo Lime cocktails,  
\$4 Captain Morgan and  
Coke cocktails, \$11.95  
all-you-can-eat fish and  
chips; 1028 W. Diversey  
Pkwy. 773-290-6988.

**REDNOFIVE**

8 p.m.: Face 2 Face.  
Search for this  
event's name on

Facebook, forward  
the information to  
your online friends  
and mingle with them  
in person during this  
social networking  
event. Includes  
appetizers and  
10 Cane cocktails.  
The first 200 guests  
also receive giftbags.  
\$20 after midnight;  
440 N. Halsted St. 312-  
733-6699.

**SLUGGERS**

**SPORTS BAR &  
DUELING PIANOS**

7 p.m.: Santa Cause  
4. WSCR-AM 670  
host and producer  
Matt Abattacola and  
Pimprov comedy's  
Jonathan Keaton  
host a singles auction  
for dates with local  
celebrities, sports  
and concert tickets  
and memorabilia,  
and more. Enter the  
Bad Santa costume  
contest and you could  
win a cash prize. \$15  
donation; 3540 N. Clark  
St. 773-248-0055.

**ZELLA**

8:30 p.m.: "Save  
the Girls" Holiday  
Party: A festive  
benefit includes all-  
you-can-eat appetizers,  
cocktails and raffles;  
\$35-\$40; 1983 N.  
Clybourn Ave. 773-549-  
2910.



For tickets – Harris Theater Box Office:

312-334-7777

[www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org)

For concert info & special packages:

[www.holidaypopschicago.com](http://www.holidaypopschicago.com)

Rob Elgas of  
NBC5 hosts  
the 2008

# Holiday POPS CHICAGO

*The 140-member Holiday Pops  
Chicago Chorus and 48-piece  
Southport Symphony Orchestra,  
under the direction of  
Maestro Scott Arkenberg,  
perform the best-loved holiday  
music and songs of the  
season with special guests:  
The Alphonsus Academy & Center  
for the Arts Children's Chorus.*

7:30pm,  
Wed., Dec. 10



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The Holiday Pops Concert has become a Chicago tradition: a much loved part of the holiday music scene since 2001. In a true labor of love, a diverse group of local Chicago voices comes together to present this magical evening of song and joy, laughter and warmth. Highlights include a visit from Santa, audience sing-a-longs and the Parade of the Wooden Soldiers! The beautiful music that comes from this collaboration is exhilarating and the enthusiasm and spirit is contagious.



## Metromix's top shows

**Q-TIP**

Still can't believe his new album, "The Renaissance," is actually out. With *The Cool Kids*, *The Knux*. 9 p.m. Sat. \$30.50-\$33. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

**FUNKADESI**

Locals put on a party, and the entire world's invited. With *The Afromotive*. 9 p.m. Fri. \$8. Wild Hare, 3530 N. Clark St. 773-327-0868.

**DONRIMINI**

Hope you brought your dancing shoes. With *Bearries*, *The Heaven Seventies*, *Monorail Riders*, *Blackhole DJs*. 9 p.m. Fri. \$10-\$12. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

**CINDY BLACKMAN**

Jazz drumming that really rocks. Or is it



**Q-Tip**  
AP FILE

rock drumming with a bit of jazz? 8 and 10:30 p.m. Fri. \$25-\$30. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

**THE MPLS HENRYS**  
Chicago has no

shortage of quality indie rockers: Here's another. With *Phillip Morris*, *Dirty Diamonds*. 9:30 p.m. Fri. \$6. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. [housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**Friday****18TH DYE, DEVON WILLIAMS, COUPLESKATE**

10 p.m. \$10. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

**BANDAGES, LACONA, COMMONSHINER, KEVIN MILES**

9 p.m. \$7. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

**THE BLACK CROWES, VETIVER**

8 p.m. \$41. Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave. 312-559-1212.

**CLAUDIO RODITI QUARTET**

8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

**COBALT AND THE HIRED GUNS, THE LOCALS, THE MOVES, CUT AND RUN, CURBSIDE, RACHEL ZYSTR**

8:30 p.m. \$9. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

**FAMILY ORDER, SPARE PARTS**

9 p.m. \$5. The Kinetic Playground, 1113 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-769-5483.

**THE FLAT FIVE**

8:30 and 10:30 p.m. \$10. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

**HAMELL ON TRIAL**

7:30 p.m. \$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

**HOT BUTTERED RUM, RAGBIRDS**

10 p.m. \$12. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

**JOHN BROWN'S BODY, SPIRITUAL REZ**

9 p.m. \$15. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

**THE LOYAL DIVIDE, THE LONELIEST MONK, SHAPES AND SOUNDS, PEOPLE OF PAPER**

8 p.m. \$6-\$9. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

**MUSIKANTO, CHICAGO FARMER, ERNIE HENDRICKSON**  
9:30 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. [housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**THE TEMPTATIONS REVIEW, OTIS CLAY**

8 p.m. \$40-\$45. UIC Pavilion, 1150 W. Harrison St. 312-559-1212.

**THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS**

9 p.m. \$25. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

**TRAVIS ATKINSON, PATRICK HEREK**

9 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

**TREVOR HALL, TODD CAREY**  
10:30 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

**VENETIAN SNARES, OTTO VAN SHIRACH, CYRUSREX, NAHA, SURACHAI, THE**

**FLASHBULB**  
8 p.m. \$20-\$25. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

**WAYNE NEWTON**

8 p.m. \$45-\$75. The Venue, 777 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, Ind. 312-559-1212.

**Saturday**

**ACTION FINGER, MONSTROUS, THUNDERUNDERUS**  
10 p.m. \$5 donation. Cal's Liquors, 400 S. Wells St. 312-922-6392.

**ALEX CHILTON**

7 p.m. \$31-\$35. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

**ALICE PEACOCK**  
8 p.m. \$15. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

**AMANDA OVERYMER, BECKON Q, THE PELLOWS, KEVIN LEE, BANGALORE,**

**JESS GODWIN**  
8:30 p.m. \$10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

**BOUND STEMS, GOLD, SPILLER WHALE**  
10 p.m. \$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

**BRENDAN BAYLISS AND JAKE CINNINGER**

7:30 p.m. \$20. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.

**CHAD ELLIOTT, PJ LOUGHRAN**

9 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

**CONDUCTIVE ALLIANCE, MAR CARIBE, THE LONELIEST MONK**

10 p.m. \$7. Morseland, 1218 W. Morse Ave. 773-764-8900.

**THE DAMNWELLS, THE HEY DAY, THE PENTHOUSE SWEETS**  
9 p.m. \$12-\$14.

«page 26

AEM PRESENTS

# THE 2008 NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008  
**NAVY PIER**

Hosted by 103.5 KISS FM Chicago and MC'd by TY

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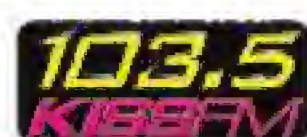
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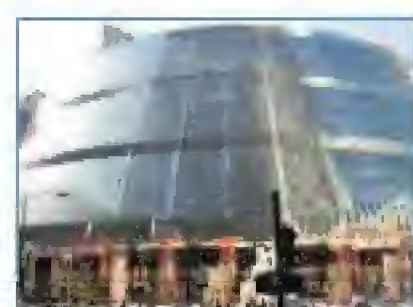


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### » page 24

Double Door, 1572 N.  
Milwaukee Ave. 773-  
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**DAVE KOZ,  
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MATSUI**  
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Chicago Theatre, 175 N.  
State St. 312-559-1212.

**THE INFAMOUS  
STRINGDUSTERS**  
8 p.m. \$20-\$25. The  
Morse Theatre, 1328  
Morse Ave. 773-654-  
5100.

**JC BROOKS AND  
THE UPTOWN SOUND,  
FREDDIE T AND  
THE PEOPLE**  
9 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354  
W. Wabansia Ave. 773-  
227-4433.

**THE LIFELINE,  
A FRIEND CALLED  
FIRE, DAVID COSTA**  
9 p.m. Cover varies.  
Reggie's Rock Club,  
2109 S. State St. 312-  
949-0120.

**MENTALLY ILL, END  
RESULT, ONO**  
9:30 p.m. \$10. Beat  
Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
[housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**MUCCA PAZZA, ICY  
DEMONS, VOLCANO**  
8 p.m. \$15. Bottom  
Lounge, 1375 W. Lake  
St. 312-666-6775.

**SIGNAL, ZMEU, DEAD  
MAN'S WAKE, ALONG  
THE PARALLEL**  
9 p.m. \$6-\$8. Abbey  
Pub, 3420 W. Grace St.  
773-478-4408.

**TAPROOT,  
ROOSEVELT JENKINS,  
HEART-SET  
SELF-DESTRUCT**  
9:30 p.m. \$12-\$15.  
Subterranean,  
2011 W. North Ave.  
[housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**THE WILDERS,  
HORSE'S HA**  
10 p.m. \$12-\$14.  
Schubas, 3159  
N. Southport Ave. 773-  
525-2508.

### Sunday

**CATATONIC, SIX  
WAYS FROM SUNDAY,  
LIFE NUMBER NINE,  
RABBLE RABBLE**  
8 p.m. Cover varies.  
Reggie's Rock Club,  
2109 S. State St. 312-  
949-0120.

**COOKIE JARVIS,  
BEAUTIFUL LOSERS,**

**B-ROCKSTAR OF  
THE 409'S, BLUNT  
INSTRUMENTS**  
8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo  
Room, 2871 N. Lincoln  
Ave. 773-549-5549.

**DENISON WITMER,  
KASLO**  
6:30 p.m. \$10-\$12.  
Beat Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
[housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**EMERALDS,  
SUN CIRCLE, BIRD  
SHOW, JOE GRIMM**  
9:30 p.m. \$3. Empty  
Bottle, 1035 N. Western  
Ave. 773-276-3600.

**GLADYS KNIGHT**  
7 p.m. \$30-\$70.  
The Venue, 777  
Casino Center Drive,  
Hammond, Ind. 312-  
559-1212, 219-473-7000.

**JON LANGFORD,  
ELEVENTH  
DREAM DAY**  
7 p.m. \$12-\$15. Hideout,  
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.  
773-227-4433.

**KRISTIN HERSH,  
DANIEL KNOX**  
7 p.m. \$16-\$20. Old  
Town School of Folk  
Music, 4544 N.  
Lincoln Ave. 773-728-  
6000.

**LAUREN FROST,  
MEMPHIS GRAHAM,  
ASHLEY BROOK  
TOUSSANT**  
9 p.m. Free. Double  
Door, 1572 N.  
Milwaukee Ave. 773-  
489-3160.

**LOVELY LITTLE  
GIRLS, SILVER ABUSE,  
FLOPHOUSE**  
9 p.m. \$10. Beat  
Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
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**ONEREPUBLIC,  
THE SPILL CANVAS**  
6:30 p.m. \$29. House of  
Blues, 329 N. Dearborn  
St. 312-923-2000.

**ROSIE THOMAS,  
CHEYENNE,  
SHEILA SAPUTO**  
8 p.m. \$12. Schubas,  
3159 N. Southport Ave.  
773-525-2508.

**THE SMASHING  
PUMPKINS**  
7:30 p.m. \$45. Aragon  
Ballroom, 1106 W.  
Lawrence Ave. 312-559-  
1212.

**TOBY LIGHTMAN,  
CLAIRE STAHLER**  
8 p.m. \$12. Martyrs',  
3855 N. Lincoln Ave.  
312-559-1212.

### ON-SALE TICKETS

#### On sale 9 a.m. Friday

**The Bad Plus**, Friday,  
April 17 (\$21-\$25, all  
ages) at Old Town  
School of Folk Music.

**Kathleen Edwards,  
Clare Burson**,  
Saturday, Feb. 7 (\$16-  
\$20, all ages) at Old  
Town School of Folk  
Music.

**Joshua Redman**,  
Sunday, March 1  
(\$26-\$30, all ages) at  
Old Town School of  
Folk Music.

#### On sale 10 a.m. Friday

**Dropkick Murphys**,  
Friday, Feb. 28  
(\$26.50-\$29.50, all  
ages) at Congress  
Theater.

**Toby Keith, Jason  
Aldean**, Thursday,  
Jan. 29 (\$34.75-  
\$49.75, all ages) at  
Peoria Civic Center.

#### On sale 10 a.m. Saturday

**Slipknot, Coheed  
and Cambria,  
Trivium**, Friday,  
Jan. 30 (\$37.50-\$45,  
all ages) at Allstate  
Arena.

**Britney Spears,  
The Pussycat Dolls**,  
Tuesday, April 28  
(\$39.50-\$549.50,  
all ages) at Allstate  
Arena.

#### On sale noon Saturday

**Delta Spirit, Other  
Lives, Dawes**,  
Saturday, Feb. 14 (\$8-  
\$10, 21+) at Double  
Door.

**Que Billah**, Saturday,  
Dec. 27 (\$10-\$15, 21+)  
at Double Door.

**Tokyo Police Club,  
Born Ruffians**,  
Wednesday, March  
18 (\$16-\$18, 18+) at  
Metro.



Britney Spears

#### On sale 10 a.m. Monday

**Il Divo**, Tuesday, May  
19 (\$55-\$150, all ages)  
at Rosemont Theater.

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**\*Bear Hands,  
Lost in the Trees**,  
Wednesday, Jan. 14  
(\$15, 18+) at Schubas.

**\*Bishop Allen, The  
Donkeys, Tulsa,  
Vacations**, Sunday,  
Jan. 18 (\$15, 18+) at  
Schubas.

**\*Cursive, Miles  
Benjamin Anthony  
Robinson,  
Colourmusic**, Friday,  
Jan. 16 (\$15, 18+) at  
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**\*Thunderheist, The  
Wonderful World of  
Bald Eagle**, Saturday,  
Jan. 17 (\$15, 18+) at  
Schubas.



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Q-Tip  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

## Q-Tip holds out for a 'Renaissance'

### Chicago Tribune

It's like he never left. The music of Q-Tip, and the cool-flow style he created with A Tribe Called Quest in the early '90s, is back in vogue.

Tribe and its rhythmically agile, verbally dexterous sound was drowned out by gangsta rap's bling and bravado for a time in the late '90s, but now artists ranging from Common and Cool Kids to Pharrell Williams and Talib Kweli are building on Tribe's innovations and scoring hits.

So the recent release of Q-Tip's second solo album, "The Renaissance," is well-timed. It took the rapper nine years to release a follow-up to his 1999 solo debut, "Amplified." In that time, he has recorded several albums' worth of material, but record-label politics prevented him from releasing any of it. Now, he says, his aborted 2002 album, "Kamal the Abstract," will resurface next year, and he'll be working on a new project with Common. A tour brings him to Chicago with Cool Kids on Saturday.

"It's amazing that people feel this way about what I'm doing," Q-Tip says. "The last few years have been a little bit frustrating. But I always knew I could create good music. I didn't let it get me down. I'm confident in myself, and I knew that if I was patient, good things would come my way."

Q-Tip says that he always took a broader view of his music and his career, and that helped him overcome the whims of an industry that didn't always appreciate his music.

"I love what I do," he says. "I exist within a tradition of many artists, whether it be Bob Dylan, Eric B., the Beatles, Ol' Dirty Bastard, John Coltrane, Jimi Hendrix. It's a long lineage of great artists who came before me, and I wear this badge proudly. It is who I am and what I will be forever."

### Q-Tip with Cool Kids

**When:** 9 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St.

**Price:** \$30.50; 312-559-1212

## Akon looks for fresh start

### Associated Press

Akon's explosive rise to the top of the music charts was fueled by feel-good songs and naughty grooves, but his criminal past was always an underlying part of his success. His breakthrough album was titled "Konvicted," his music company is called Konvict and the clank of prison bars often is heard in his music.

But after his burgeoning international star appeal was tarnished by missteps, the singer is looking to distance himself from street life and make amends for his mistakes.

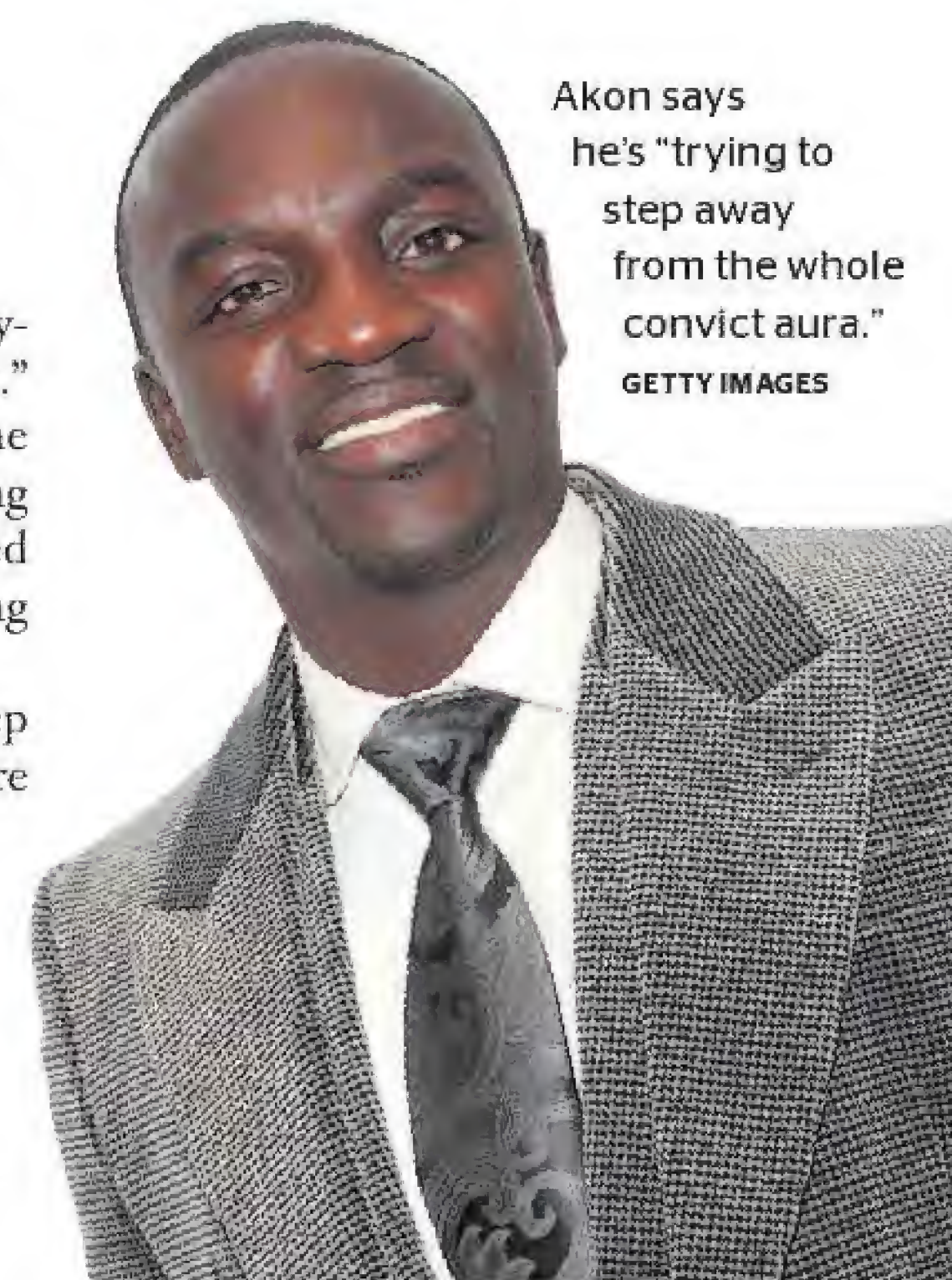
"At this stage of my life, I'm trying to step away from the whole convict aura," said Akon, who released his third CD, "Freedom," this week. "It's what made me become the man

who I am today. I'm now trying to take everything that was so dark and shed light into it."

Akon's path to superstardom hit some roadblocks last year—including drawing widespread criticism for a sexually charged dance onstage with a 14-year-old girl during a concert in Trinidad and Tobago.

All the controversies have made Akon step away from gangsta tales in his songs and share more of a positive outlook on life. He also plans to stay out of trouble.

"They're looking to push my buttons and watch to see if I'll explode like every other convict would," Akon said. "But I'm not. I'm like Barack Obama—real calm and relaxed. They're not going to trigger me into exploding no more."



Akon says he's "trying to step away from the whole convict aura."

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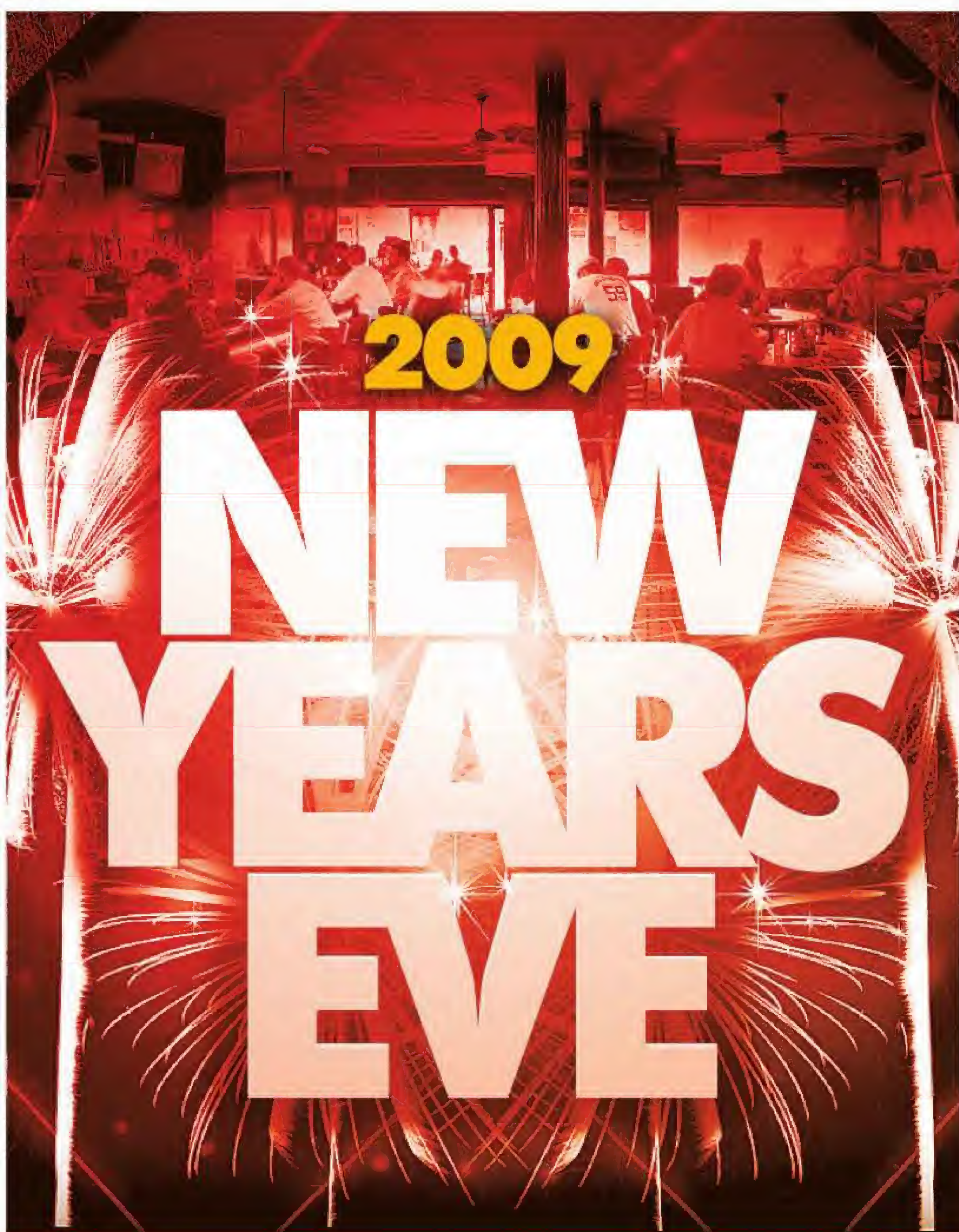


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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition

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# The versatile MR. WRIGHT

## Los Angeles Times

Jeffrey Wright has tremendous respect for his latest character.

"If Elvis Presley was the king of rock 'n' roll, then Muddy Waters was the god," Wright says of the legendary bluesman he plays in "Cadillac Records," opening Friday.

Waters helped originate the music without which rock would never have been and is cited as a primary influence by the likes of Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and the Rolling Stones.

"So many musicians express their absolute adoration, love and respect for Muddy Waters," Wright said. "He's adored, he's revered in a way that's reserved for that seminal few. He couldn't read or write but is somehow responsible for influencing half the popular music of the latter half of the 20th Century and beyond. It's a tribute to his genius and his honesty."

Wright appeared earlier this year as Gen. Colin Powell in Oliver Stone's "W." and recently reprised his spy-with-a-conscience take on CIA operative Felix Leiter in the Bond film "Quantum of Solace."

Now he's playing the sharecropper-turned-Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Waters in "Cadillac Records," with Adrien Brody, Beyonce Knowles and Gabrielle Union.

"All those cats came from the same place. It's almost as though there was just one collective bluesman within the bodies of a dozen or so guys, all from the same neighborhood in Mississippi," Wright said. "They created this music; they dug it out of the dirt. Literally. It came out of songs of the field—field hollering and things like that. Some of the first blues guitars were strings attached to the sides of shacks that they would strum, causing the whole house to act as a sounding board."

"Some of us knew more than others about the history of this music, but we all, in discovering the history of these people, fell in love and were energized in a way that celebrated that discovery."

For an actor who had played guitar for years but didn't consider himself anywhere near as sharp as one of the most expressive blues ax men ever, convincing audiences he had the appropriate chops was a real challenge.

"It was particularly daunting on 1½ takes," he said of the average number of tries they had per scene. "We shot it in 28 days on a budget of less than \$10 million. ... It was a really tight schedule for a film, the logistics of which were fairly complicated. So that was a real concern of mine."

Wright's Waters lives around and within

## Cadillac Records <sup>R</sup>

Darnell Martin could have made an entire movie about Muddy Waters. Or Etta James. Or Chuck Berry.

Instead, the writer-director has made a movie about all of them with "Cadillac Records," cramming their complicated individual stories into the larger saga of Chicago-based Chess Records, the label that launched those stars and so many others during the 1950s and '60s.

The result feels even more cursory and rushed than the average music biopic.

CHRISTY LEMIRE, AP

the grooves of his music.

"The key, really, for me, was the music, and the music contains a sexuality, contains a desire for freedom relative to that sexuality but also relative to social constraints and political constraints. There was, for me, very little separation between the art form and the man," the actor said. "The music was a direct expression of language and culture and place. There wasn't a lot of putting on airs in the middle of a Mississippi cotton field under the midday sun. So that kind of carnal, blood-filled drive lives in the music because it lived in the man. It's such an honest expression of personality."

Jeffrey Wright stars as Muddy Waters in "Cadillac Records."

## WHO'S WHO?

"Cadillac Records" focuses on label head Leonard Chess, some of the label's biggest personalities and the music they made. Several of these music legends are represented in "Cadillac Records," which opens Friday. Here's a look at the actors who play them.



ADRIEN BRODY  
LEONARD CHESSE



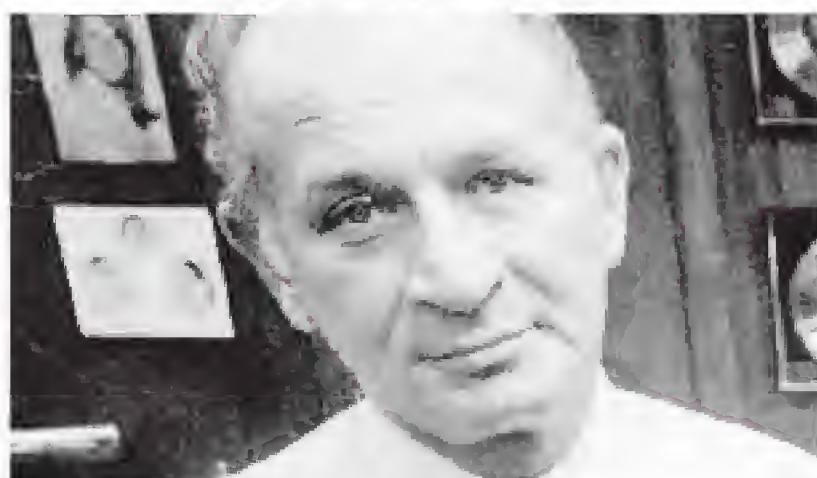
JEFFREY WRIGHT  
MUDDY WATERS



BEYONCE KNOWLES  
ETTA JAMES



EAMONN WALKER  
HOWLIN' WOLF







#### WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HIM

Jeffrey Wright is perhaps best known now as James Bond's "brother from Langley," CIA operative Felix Leiter, in "Casino Royale" and "Quantum of Solace." Here are some other memorable appearances:

» "Syriana" (2005) with George Clooney and Matt Damon

» "Broken Flowers" (2005) with Bill Murray

» HBO's "Boycott" (2001) as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Chess Records in Chicago.

## Chicago history told in 'Cadillac Records'

"Cadillac Records" dramatizes the story of South Side brothers Leonard and Phil Chess, who relaunched Aristocrat Records as Chess Records in 1950 and started releasing albums by such soon-to-be greats as Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Bo Diddley, Buddy Guy, John Lee Hooker, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry and others.

The Chess brothers moved their company into a converted tire factory at 2120 S. Michigan Ave. in 1957. The building was designated a Chicago landmark in 1990. It now houses the Willie Dixon Blues Heaven Foundation, which provides emergency assistance to blues performers in need.

In October 1999, then-First Lady Hillary Clinton was at the site to announce a donation to restore the building. Here's what the Tribune wrote:

"Lonnie Brooks, Bo Diddley and, finally, KoKo Taylor ... played for Hillary Rodham Clinton Wednesday and, along with Chuck Berry, heaped praise on her at the Chess Records building in the South Loop as she announced \$60,000 in private and corporate donations to the Blues Heaven Foundation to restore the former recording studio to its original condition. ...

"Clinton called the blues the foundation of all American popular music.

"'And in many ways, the story of Chicago blues is the story of the African-American experience,' she said. 'The blues found its beat with the polyrhythms of Africa; gained words and form and pain and emotion on the plantations of the South; traveled up the Mississippi; collaborated with white musicians and discovered electricity, volume and fame right here in the Windy City.'" REDEYE, TRIBUNE

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

Chicago's Chess Records has been the subject of newspaper articles, books and now a movie. In 2004, the Chicago Tribune reviewed the book "Machers and Rockers: Chess Records and the Business of Rock & Roll," by Rich Cohen. Here's a prophetic excerpt that had us laughing:

"The rise and fall of [Leonard Chess'] legendary Chicago record label would make a great movie if actors could sing like Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Etta James and many more of those artists when they were young, in the flush years of 1950s' and 1960s' rhythm and blues. Any number of actors could sink their chops into portraying Chess."



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CHUCK BERRY



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-Sara Cardace, NEW YORK MAGAZINE

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# 'Rome' star eager for punishing role

## The Fresno Bee

First there was Dolph Lundgren. Then came Thomas Jane. Now it is Ray Stevenson's turn.

Over nearly a two-decade span, the three actors have played the Marvel Comics character the Punisher in feature films. Stevenson's turn at the role, "Punisher: War Zone," opens Friday.

The Punisher is vigilante/hero Frank Castle. He has no super powers—unless you count being able to kick the butts of bad guys without breaking a sweat. In "War Zone," the Punisher faces Jigsaw, a mob boss who has put together an army of bad guys.

While the Punisher is a killing machine, both Lundgren and Jane played the character with a sympathetic side. Stevenson would have none of that.

"I was not aware of the comic book when interest came through for me to do the role," Stevenson said.

Stevenson went out and bought a few copies of the comics. He found the stories to be ultraviolent. He also liked the writing because no punches were pulled when it came to the Punisher's obsession with revenge and his take on a variety of social issues.

That's the kind of movie he wanted to make.

"I don't want people to leave the theater wanting to be Frank Castle. I want them to be glad he is there. But I don't want anyone to want to be him," Stevenson said.

Stevenson, who stands 6 feet 4 inches, is no stranger to playing larger-than-life charac-



Ray Stevenson in "Punisher"  
LIONSGATE

ters. The Irish actor portrayed Dagonet, the knight who sacrifices his life to save others, in "King Arthur." He's probably best known to American audiences for his portrayal of Titus Pullo in the HBO series "Rome."

Although Pullo and the Punisher exist centuries apart, Stevenson found the roles to be similar.

"Titus taught me to live in the moment. This is where the gods have put him," Stevenson said. "Frank also lives for today. He doesn't plan. He has his own demands."

## Caution: The first few rows may get splattered

Frank Castle/The Punisher (Ray Stevenson) sets his sights on a gangster (Dominic West) who renames himself Jigsaw after his face is massively disfigured. (No relation to Jigsaw of the "Saw" movies, fortunately.) Meanwhile, Russian baddies look to acquire dangerous biological material, and Castle looks after the wife and daughter of an undercover cop he accidentally killed.

**The buzz:** It's the follow-up at least two or three people were waiting for.

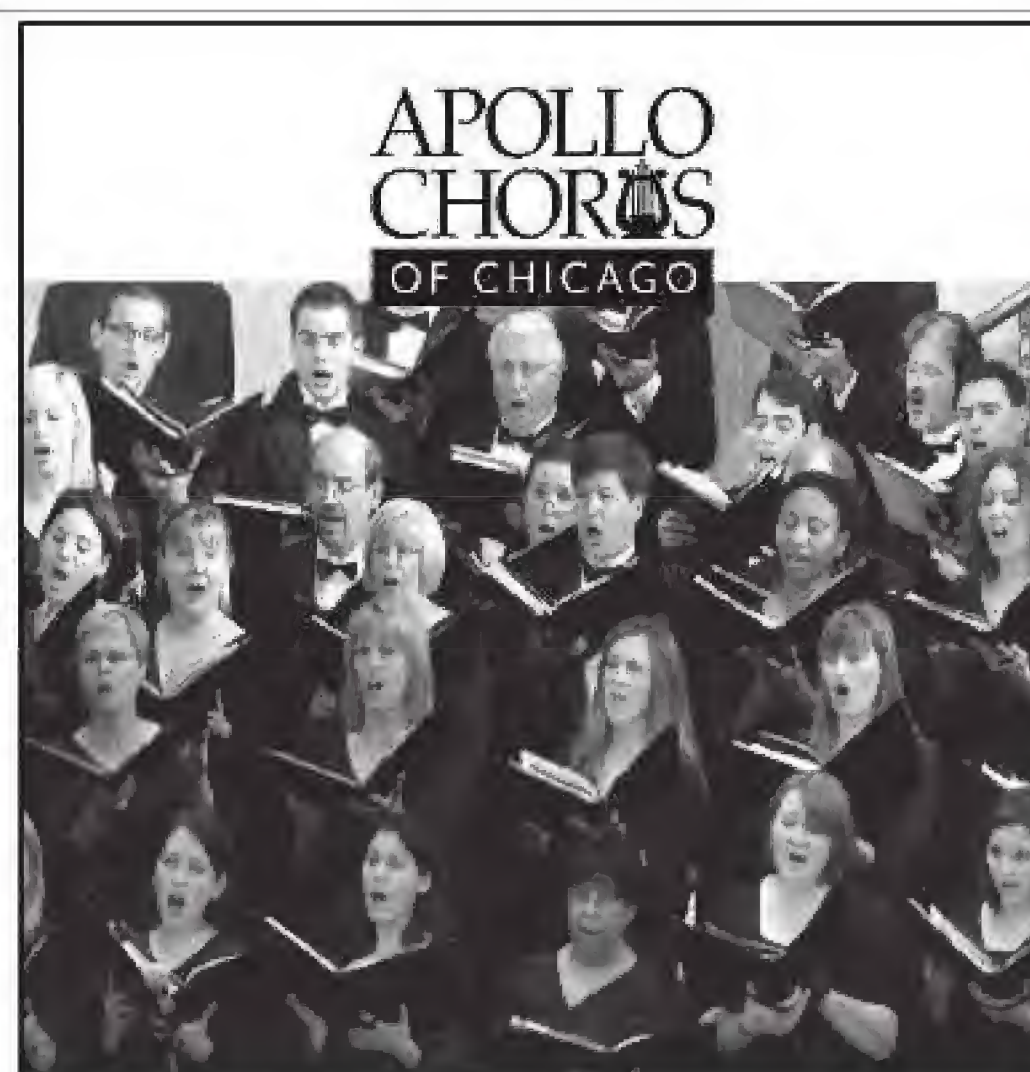
**The verdict:** Squish squish, bang bang. West's appropriately cartoonish performance redeems the movie whenever he's onscreen, but the increasingly vicious and sometimes laughable "Punisher" enjoys every drop of blood spilled. He believes there's no reason to kill an old lady politely when you can leave her head demolished, dripping and steaming. (Yes. Yuck.) There's justice, and there's mutilation.



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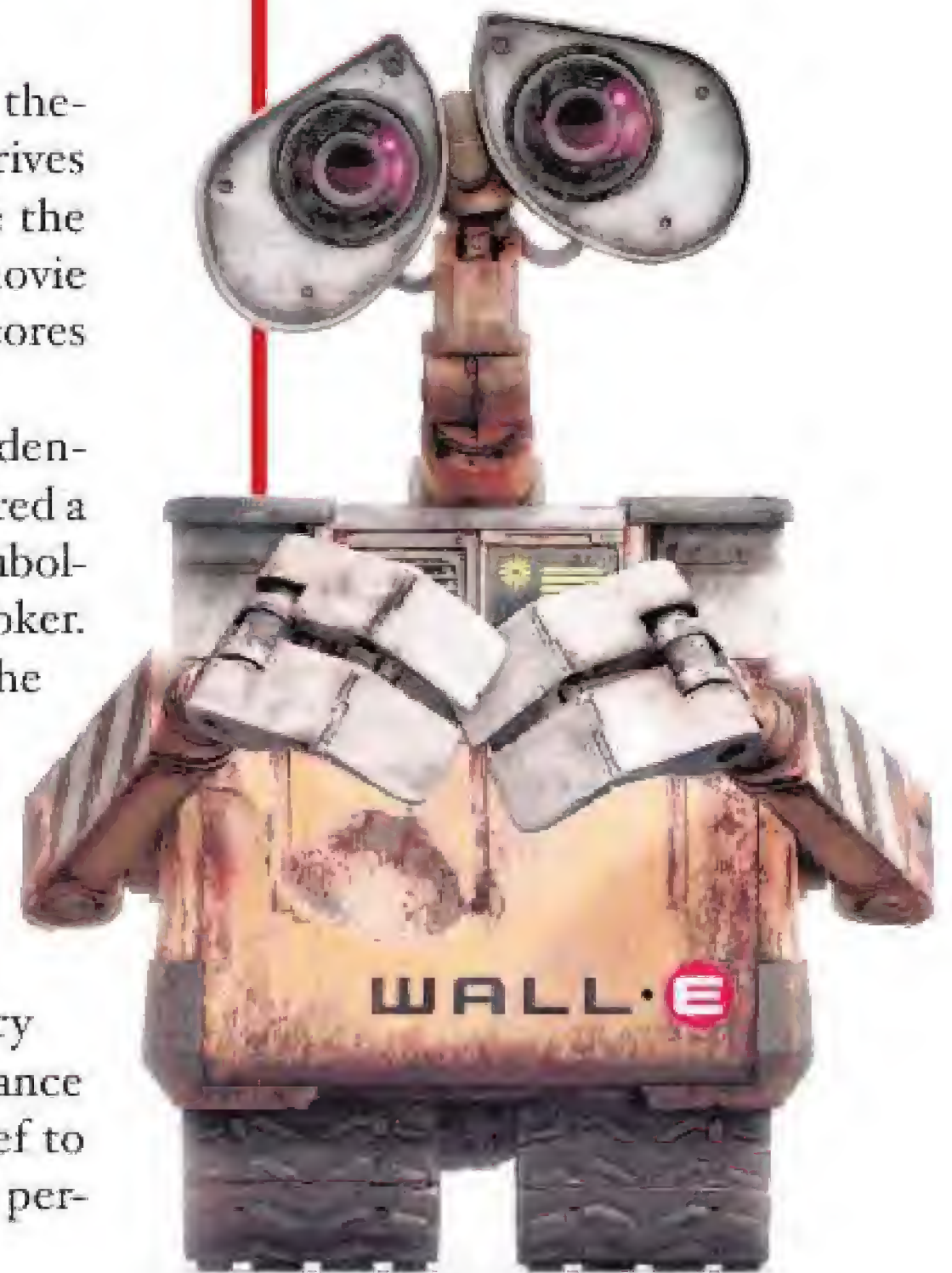
Heath Ledger  
as the Joker  
WARNER BROS. PICTURES



## In the running

Several Web sites and magazines have begun prognosticating about what films will be nominated for a best picture Oscar. Here's how it's shaping up:

- >> "Milk" (above)
- >> "The Dark Knight"
- >> "Frost/Nixon"
- >> "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- >> "W."
- >> "Slumdog Millionaire"
- >> "Valkyrie"
- >> "Defiance"
- >> "The Wrestler"
- >> "Revolutionary Road"
- >> "Wall-E" (below)



### Associated Press

As the box-office bankroll climbed for "The Dark Knight" last summer, the Hollywood consensus was that a posthumous nomination for Heath Ledger was the Batman blockbuster's best Academy Awards hope.

Now that critics have gotten a peek at all the last-minute Oscar contenders, "The Dark Knight" has emerged as a solid contender for best picture and best director for Christopher Nolan. Web sites such as [theenvelope.com](http://theenvelope.com) and [awardsdaily.com](http://awardsdaily.com) rank Nolan and Ledger among key Oscar contenders.

"Far be it for me to try and predict, and I think that anybody looks like a (jerk) if you really try to predict what people are going to vote for. But certainly, for me, I think that the serious contenders in this movie in my mind are Heath, Chris for director because he's done an extraordinary job, and I do believe best picture as well," "Dark Knight" star Christian Bale said Wednesday night at a cocktail reception for the

filmmakers and critics.

It's unusual for an action flick to climb into the company of Hollywood's year-end prestige pictures, with Oscar voters tending toward highbrow literary works rather than comic-book adaptations. Among the action films that made the best-picture cut at the Oscars were the three "Lord of the Rings" movies and "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

But building on the critical and commercial success of 2005's "Batman Begins," the sequel elevated the superhero genre to a new high, with critics ranking "The Dark Knight" as one of the year's best films.

"It is a genre movie, but I think it goes beyond it with the themes in this movie," said "Dark Knight" co-star Aaron Eckhart. "It's an important movie sociologically. I feel like in this day and age, with terrorism and with the cancers of the city and people trying to find a voice within their own city, this is an important film."

"But it's a Batman film, so it has that going

for it. It has that going against it."

With about \$1 billion in worldwide theatrical grosses, "The Dark Knight" arrives on home video Tuesday, two days before the Golden Globe nominations, where the movie could gain some Oscar momentum if it scores well there.

Ledger, who died in January of an accidental prescription drug overdose, is considered a likely supporting-actor nominee for his diabolical performance as Batman nemesis the Joker. Oscar nominations come out Jan. 22, the one-year anniversary of Ledger's death.

"I'd like to think he would be very quietly proud of the fact that people really responded to it in the way he'd intended, were moved by the performance," Nolan said. "As far as Heath goes, any and every validation of the success of his performance is a great source of pride to me and relief to me that I've done my end of getting his performance out there."

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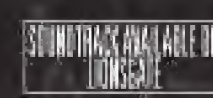
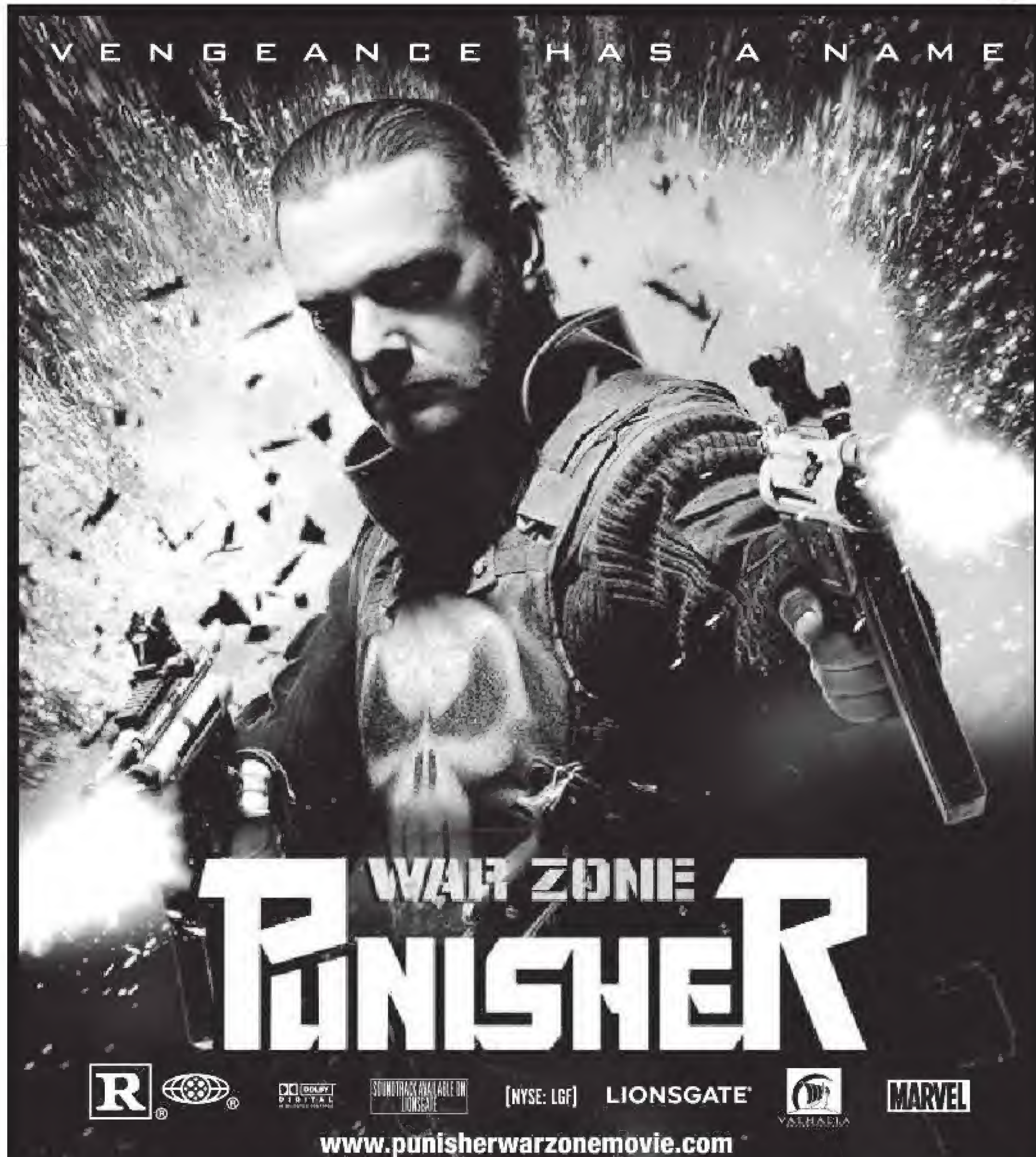


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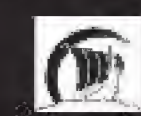
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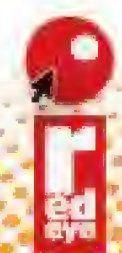
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# Tourists bite on 'Twilight' tours

## Los Angeles Times

Fans of the hit movie "Twilight" are swarming tiny Forks on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, where the novels are set, and checking out "Twilight"-themed tours, hotel packages and even food.

About 400 fans descended on Forks right after the movie premiered, said Mike Gurling, who runs the visitor center for the Forks Chamber of Commerce. The film is based on Stephenie Meyer's vampire novels.

Tours of the town's high school, police station and other "Twilight" sites are booked through January, so Gurling said he may add more. Look for details on the chamber's Web site, which has a section on the novel series, including a fun photo gallery and a map of key sites.

Oddly, none of the movie, mostly shot in Oregon, was filmed in Forks, Gurling said. Here are other "Twilight" tourist tidbits:

**The View Point Inn** in Corbett, Ore., where the movie's ending and prom scenes were

## MORE ONLINE

» Forks Chamber of Commerce: [forkswa.com/homeof/twilightthebook](http://forkswa.com/homeof/twilightthebook)

filmed, offers "Twilight"-themed slumber parties (\$175 per person), tours of film locations in and around Portland, Ore., (starting at \$99 per person) and dinners with "Twilight"-inspired dishes such

as Bella Ravioli (\$22, great with a Coke).

**Kalaloch Lodge** in Olympic National Park, about 35 miles south of Forks, offers a two-night "Twilight Package," starting at \$349, that includes a map of the novels' settings, dinner for two and other extras.

**Beyond Boundaries Travel**, based in Colorado Springs, offers "Twilight"-themed tours and events through its Fan Trips division.

Among them are a five-night, vampire-themed European tour (starting at \$2,299 per person, double occupancy) and a six-night Vampire Baseball Adventure in Oregon and Washington (starting at \$1,599 per person, quad occupancy). Jeannie Barresi, co-owner of Beyond Boundaries, said there are spaces available in these just-launched 2009 trips.



The Miller Tree Inn is home to the fictional Cullen family of vampires in author Stephenie Meyer's book series, "Twilight." BRIAN VANDER BRUG/L.A. TIMES

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\*Please note that Dick's Last Resort has moved from the Illinois St location

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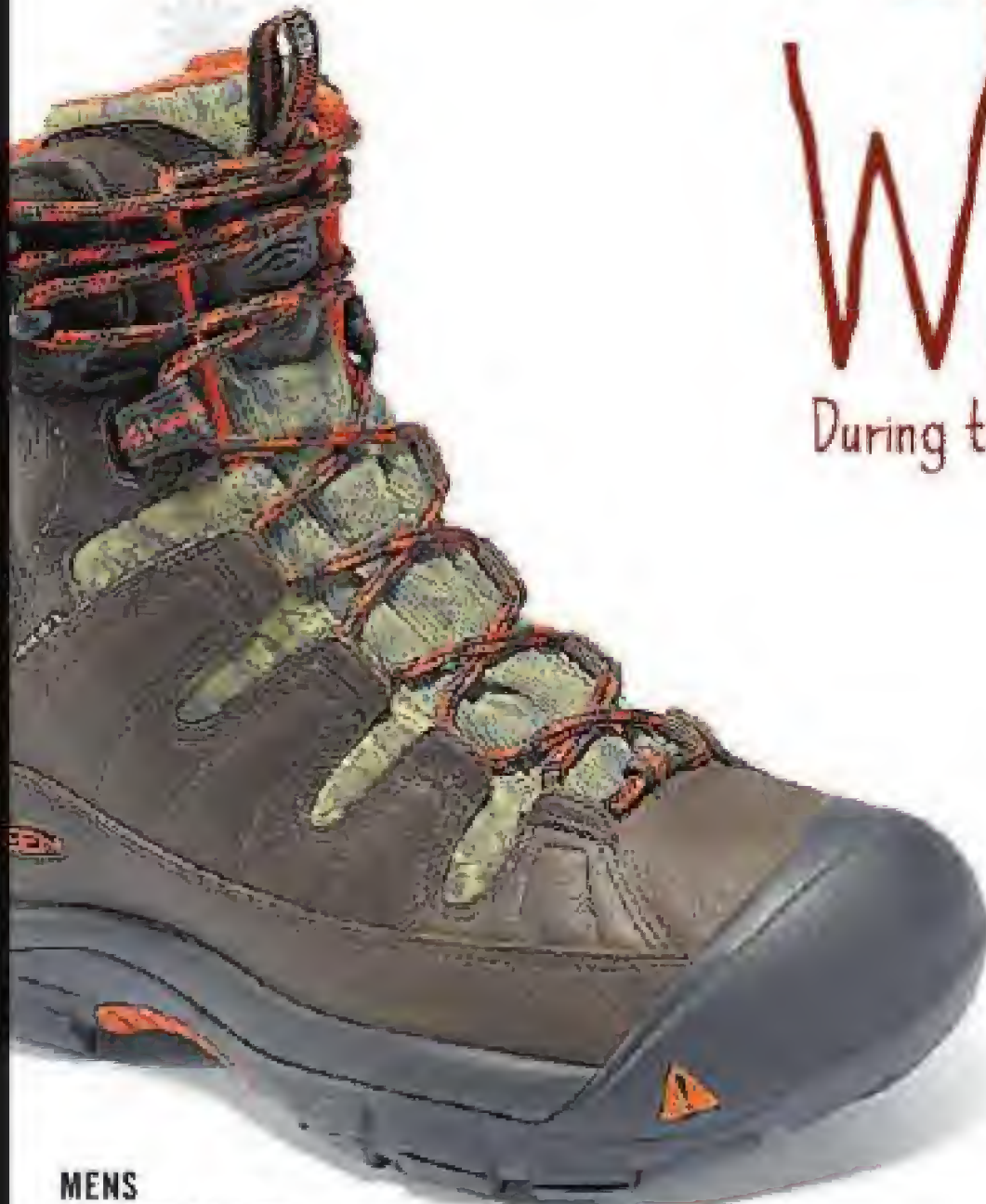






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For every order placed at [KEENFOOTWEAR.COM](http://KEENFOOTWEAR.COM) between now and December 25th, KEEN will contribute money to local shelters and food banks. See website for details.

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If this is who you are planning on spending the holidays with, you definitely need to call the experts.



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# Music to your ears

By Eric Benderoff

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If there's one accessory that can improve the portable digital music experience, it would be headphones. Few mp3 players ship with decent headphones or ear buds, making this a competitive product category and great as holiday gifts.

The most prevalent trend is the noise-canceling or sound-isolating style, which helps to eliminate exterior noise for better and safer listening at lower levels. (Turning up the volume to drown out external noise can damage your hearing.) A note: The models designed to work with music phones were tested on an iPhone. They should work with most others, but please check.



## PlaneQuiet Platinum

\$100, [protravelgear.com](http://protravelgear.com)

**Style:** Ear cup.

**Comfort:** These ear cups are the most comfortable I've worn.

**Sound:** Very good. Warm tones, more bass than treble. Good at picking up details.

**Noise reduction:** Very good, but I heard traces of conversations.

**Best feature:** Could wear these all day. Good price for ear cup-style, which can be pricey.

**Drawback:** Size. Could be cumbersome for traveling.

**Speaker for phone:** No.



## Koss iSpark

\$40, [koss.com](http://koss.com)

**Style:** Sound-isolating ear buds.

**Comfort:** Very good. Could wear all day.

**Sound:** Good. Better than the Blockade but short of the Shure or V-Moda models. Sound was flatter than those models.

**Noise reduction:** Excellent. Couldn't hear anything but the music.

**Best feature:** Value and comfort. Features for making calls—a control button to pause and a speaker—are close to face.

**Drawback:** Sound could have more detail.

**Speaker for phone:** Included. Works well.



## AOSafety Blockade

\$40, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and other online retailers

**Style:** Sound-isolating ear buds.

**Comfort:** Good. Better than expected.

**Sound:** Good, but not as rich or detailed as more expensive pairs.

**Noise reduction:** Excellent. Heard only the music.

**Best feature:** Great value. They look unusual but fit well. Includes volume controls on the cord.

**Drawback:** Some users may not like the deeper ear penetration.

**Speaker for phone:** No.



## V-Moda Vibe II

\$120, [apple.com](http://apple.com)

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**Noise reduction:** Excellent. Heard only the music.

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**Drawback:** Price is a bit high compared with peers. Packaging is difficult to open.

**Speaker for phone:** Included. Worked great with iPhone.

## Shure SE102MPA

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**Style:** Sound-isolating ear buds.

**Comfort:** Excellent. You push them in, then wrap the cord over your ear.

**Sound:** Very good. Details came through clearly; better for treble than bass.

**Noise reduction:** Excellent. Couldn't hear anything but the music.

**Best feature:** Delivered the quality of sound at an affordable price.

**Drawback:** Call quality was terrible. The microphone is too far from the user's mouth.

**Speaker for phone:** Included.



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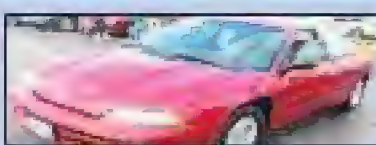


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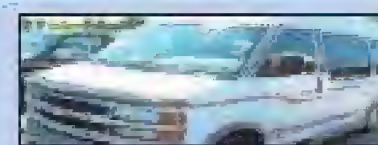
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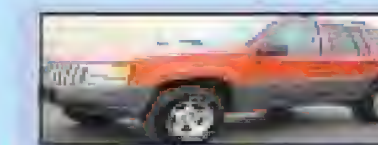
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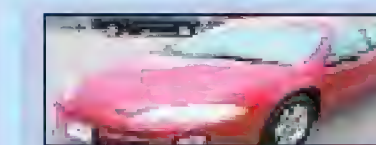
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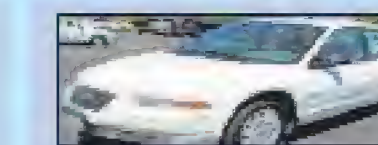
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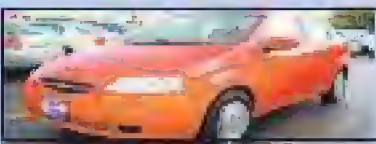
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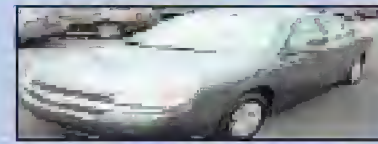
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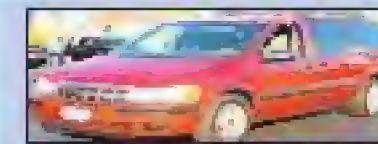
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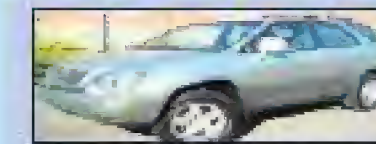
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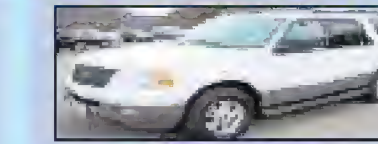
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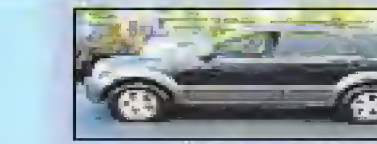
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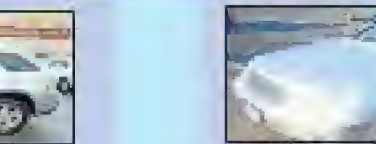
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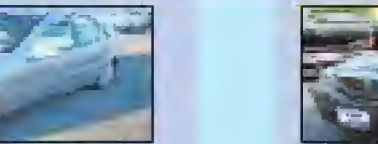
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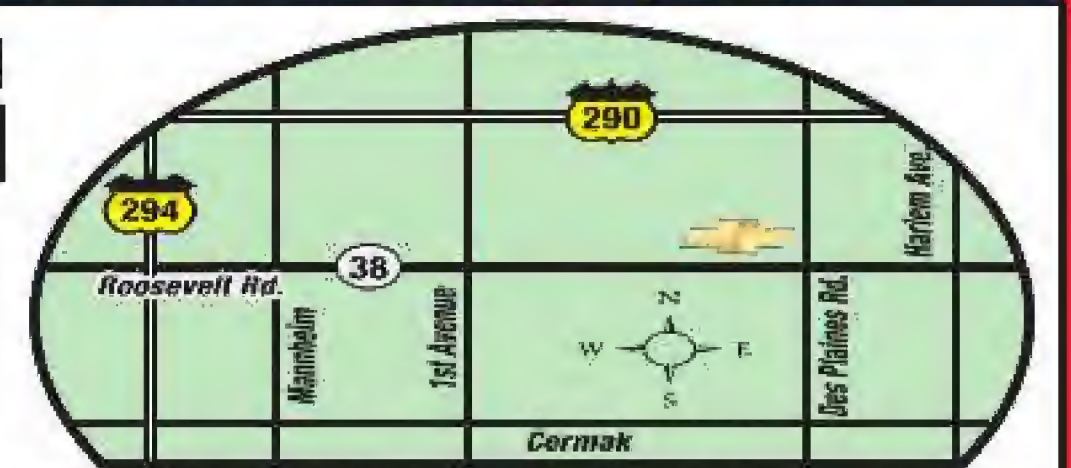
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# Star-studded video protests Proposition 8

## Associated Press

Since Proposition 8 passed in California, much of Hollywood has been up in arms. Now they are singing and dancing too, in a new Web video called "Prop 8: The Musical."

The video was posted Wednesday on **funnyordie.com**, the video site co-founded by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay. The site has found a niche in getting professional talent to quickly create topical comedy videos.

"Prop 8: The Musical" may be a 3-minute Internet video, but it has a blockbuster cast—including Jack Black (who plays Jesus), Neil Patrick Harris, John C. Reilly, Andy Richter, Maya Rudolph, Margaret Cho, Rashida Jones and others.

Though Jesus doesn't bring the two sides together, Harris has better luck. He argues gay marriage could save the economy: "Every time a gay or lesbian finds love at the parade, there's money to be made."

The video was conceived and written by Marc Shaiman, the Tony-winning composer of "Hairspray" and "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut." As of Thursday, the clip clearly had ascended to viral status, with more than 1.5 million views on **funnyordie.com**.

Shaiman had been involved in a more serious debate over



## Proposition 8.

After voters approved Proposition 8, which changed the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage, it was revealed that Scott Eckern, artistic director of the California Musical Theater in Sacramento, had donated \$1,000 to the "Yes on 8" campaign. Shaiman's "Hairspray" had played at the theater, and he said he would never allow anything he wrote to play there because of Eckern's donation. Others protested, and Eckern resigned in November.

In an interview Wednesday, Shaiman regretted that it came to Eckern losing his job: "It's a tragedy for everyone involved. You'll certainly see that no one called for him to resign."

Shaiman wrote the piece in a day, recorded it the next and shot it in a single day last week.

"It was like, 'Eureka! That's right, that's what I do!'" said Shaiman of the mini-musical. "If I'm going to stand on the soapbox, at least let me sing and dance."

## Sayonara, Shiba Inus

It's like the final episode of a beloved TV series.

Those six San Francisco Shiba Inu puppies that millions have been watching on live Web cam will start heading off this weekend to their new owners, perhaps never to frolic en masse again.

All together now: Awww.

So quick, if you haven't forwarded the link already—**ustream.tv/channel/shiba-inu-puppy-cam**—do it now. You swore you'd never be that guy or gal, but the sextet is just so pefectwy pwecious, cuddling together for nap time, tearing up a stuffed jack-o-lantern, even peeing on the floor.

You can't help yourself.

And watching the baby dogs this week takes on a special poignancy. At 8 weeks, they're getting bigger and that much less cute.

The owners say they'll keep one pup and a camera trained on him; it won't be the same, nor should it.

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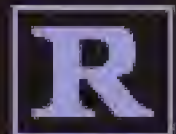
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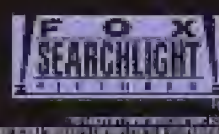
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**"I hope not,  
I really hope  
not."**

—Noah Wyle, on  
whether "The  
Librarian: Curse of  
the Judas Chalice,"  
which airs at 7 p.m.  
Sunday, will be the  
last "Librarian" movie.  
He says the series  
may move to the big  
screen. For more, go to  
[redychicago.com/  
showpatrol](http://redychicago.com/showpatrol).



**Hutton and Bellman**  
TNT

## Chicago's got a big role in new series

TNT's new caper series, "Leverage," focuses on a band of merry con artists, but in its season premiere, Chicago steals the show.

"Chicago practically plays the sixth character," co-star Gina Bellman said during an interview this week at the Four Seasons. "It plays such a fantastic backdrop."

Bellman, along with Christian Kane, Beth Riesgraf and Aldis Hodge, play con artists and hackers brought together by a former insurance investigator, played by Timothy Hutton. They form a Robin Hood-inspired team that works to scam high-level crooks and redistribute their wealth to those in need. The series mixes drama, "Ocean's Eleven"-style capers and comedy.

Chicago's big close-up comes at 9 p.m. Sunday in the pilot, before the series moves to its regular 9 p.m. Tuesday slot starting Tuesday. In the episode, Hutton's Nathan Ford and the team have to hoodwink a crooked aeronautics executive. Their scheme involves disguises, assumed names and jumping from the top of a skyscraper.

The "Leverage" cast and crew shot the pilot here in October 2007 using downtown buildings, Millennium Park and the Chicago River Walk, among other sites.

According to star Hutton, the cast forged strong bonds working in the city on the 13-episode first season.

"We kind of developed a chemistry just organically that I don't know would have happened if we had filmed in a place where people had homes, like L.A.," he said during the Four Seasons interview, adding that they all stayed at Sutton Place Hotel.

"We had Tavern on Rush right there. We had Gibson's. We had dinner together every night. We spent every day together after work," he said.

The camaraderie between the actors shows in the series. Viewers will see the five become closer throughout the season.

"We got to hang out and we got to get drunk together," Bellman said. "... Chicago will always be kind of special for us because that's where we became a team."

There was a downside shooting in the Windy City, the co-stars noted. Despite the unusually warm weather last October, the cast couldn't escape the wind. One of the last scenes was filmed in Millennium Park—on an extremely cold day.

"We had been shooting for three weeks going, 'What's all the fuss about [the wind]? What are they talking about?'" Bellman said. "On the last day of shooting the wind came in. ... We were in total, total shock."

"When I went in to do my [voice] dubbing a few months later and I saw it on screen, we all are blue."

For more from this interview, and for a review of the series, go to [redychicago.com/showpatrol](http://redychicago.com/showpatrol).



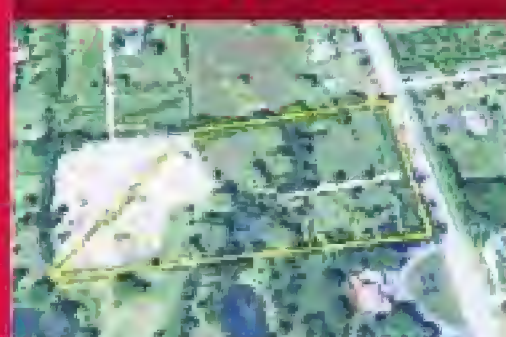


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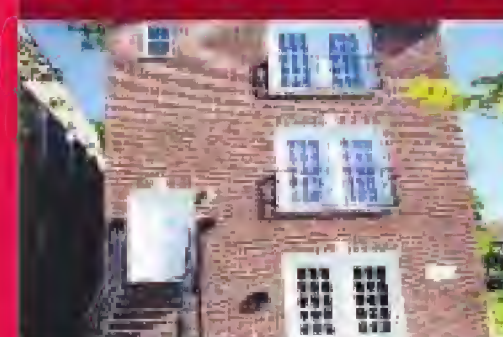


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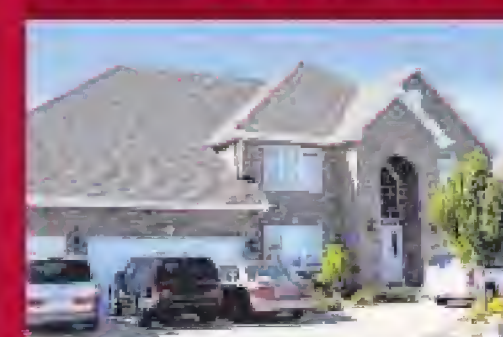


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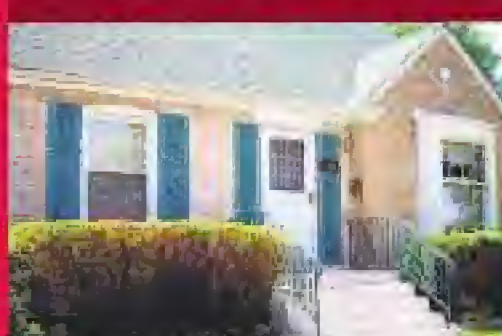


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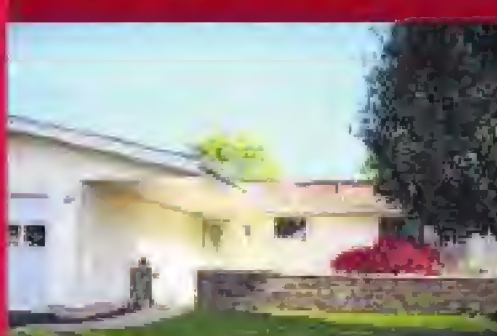


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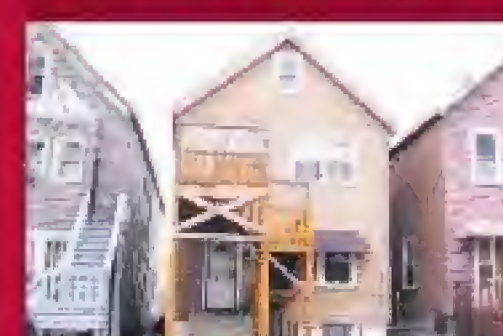


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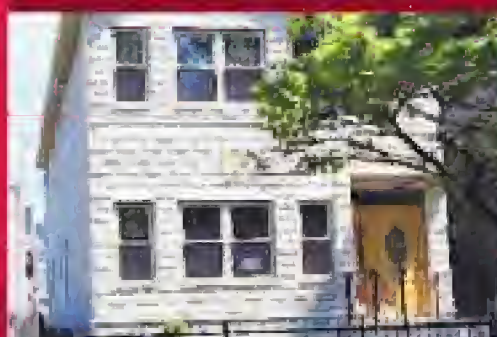


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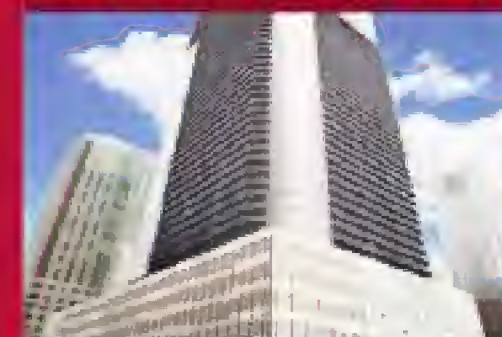


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# 'Robot Chicken' feels the force

## Los Angeles Times

Seth Green and the other makers of the Emmy-winning spoof show "Robot Chicken" cover a lot of pop-culture ground with their puppet parodies, but no target brings out their best quite like the Jedi universe.

"When we do 'Star Wars,' it does seem to really work so well, and I think it's because everyone is so familiar with the mythology, it's universal, everyone instantly connects and also there's also a lot there to have fun with, in our very loving and slightly weird way," the actor, writer and producer said. "And when it's 'Star Wars' we're always swinging for the fences."

The new season of "Chicken," which Green co-created with Matthew Senreich, starts at 10:30 p.m. Sunday as part of the "Adult Swim" programming block on Cartoon Network. It comes on the heels of the "Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II" special, which once again roasted the famed space opera with skits such as an Imperial storm trooper dragging his kid into battle on Take Your Daughter to Work Day.

"Chicken" has become a popular stop for celebrities willing to play along; the



Green

"Star Wars" special, for instance, featured Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams and Seth MacFarlane.

No guest star in the three-year history of "Chicken" caused a bigger stir than George Lucas, who went a long way in warming up his public persona by lampooning himself. Green is a frequent visitor to Lucas' Skywalker Ranch and voices the character Kit Fisto in the animated series "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" on Cartoon Network. He said he knew that the rap on Lucas was the film wizard liked ideas more than people.

"I think that might be true," Green said. "But there's the side to him that people don't get to see."



Emperor Palpatine's priority is crushing the galaxy with an iron fist—not getting regular haircuts—on Cartoon Network's "Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II." SHADOWMACHINE FILMS

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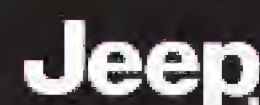
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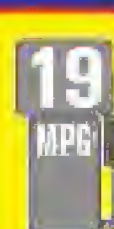
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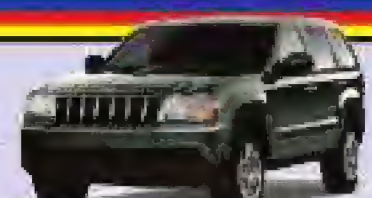
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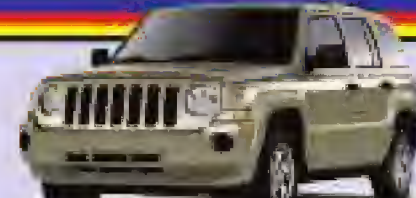
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3333 N. HAMILTON	\$5700
430 W. ROSLYN	\$5750
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1442 W. WRIGHTWOOD	\$3250
1317 W. BELMONT	\$3300
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2			5			9		
	8			7			1	
		9			3			2
				3		2		4
				5			9	
	7	8			1			3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



4	7	2	6	3	9	1	8	5
6	9	5	8	1	4	2	3	7
3	1	8	2	5	7	9	4	6
2	5	3	7	8	6	4	9	1
8	4	7	5	9	1	3	6	2
9	6	1	4	2	3	7	5	8
1	8	4	9	6	2	5	7	3
7	2	6	3	4	5	8	1	9
5	3	9	1	7	8	6	2	4

### THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

S	P	A	C	E	U	M	P	S	O	L	L	A
L	A	U	R	A	R	I	O	T	R	E	A	R
O	W	N	E	R	A	N	N	E	B	A	R	D
E	N	T	A	N	G	L	E	D	L	I	N	G
T	E	E	S		P	O	T	T	E	R		
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P	O	O	R		S	I	N	C	E	R	E	L
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		R	O	A	R	S		T	R	E	N	D
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I	S	L	E		S	T	I	R		E	M	E
E	E	L	S		P	A	C	E		R	E	D

### ACROSS

- 1 Checked out
- 6 Shake up
- 9 Numbers game
- 14 At the right moment
- 15 Cycle starter?
- 16 Puccini work
- 17 Christian's frocks
- 18 Carried out
- 19 Underdog's victory
- 20 Living security choice
- 22 Yeas and nays
- 23 Lampoon
- 24 Draws closer
- 26 Willingly, poetically
- 28 Took by force
- 32 Clear tables
- 35 Stain
- 38 Big stink
- 39 Stage whisper
- 41 Final trio
- 42 Pulls apart
- 43 Olin or Horne
- 44 de Bergerac
- 46 Scope out
- 47 Put into circulation
- 49 Campus mil. org.
- 51 Neon and xenon
- 54 Bow of greeting
- 58 Hikers' routes
- 61 Squash or bean
- 63 Drop off
- 64 The mind's I?
- 65 Circle around
- 66 Fend off
- 67 Be penitent
- 68 Movie Superman
- 69 Has the lead
- 70 Thumbs up
- 71 Eyelid woes

### DOWN

- 1 Musical finales
- 2 Baker or O'Day
- 3 Glenn of "Backdraft"
- 4 Continental travel pass
- 5 Portray in words
- 6 Actress Ashley

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18				19				
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66							67				68			
69							70				71			

- |                           |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 Negatively charged atom | 30 Countercurrent       | 48 Art stands           |
| 8 Corrugation             | 31 Drug measure         | 50 Red Bordeaux wine    |
| 9 "Mona Lisa" museum      | 32 Island east of Java  | 52 so often             |
| 10 Antithesis             | 33 Applications         | 53 Artful transition    |
| 11 Try out                | 34 Deadly seven         | 55 Westminster, for one |
| 12 Apple or pear, e.g.    | 36 Tuesday god          | 56 Vibrant              |
| 13 Cereal grains          | 37 Old autocrat         | 57 Dishes (out)         |
| 21 Nautical stabilizer    | 40 Female heir          | 58 Golf standards       |
| 25 Volcanic fallout       | 42 Antenna adjusters    | 59 Assist illegally     |
| 27 Conniving              | 44 Replacements for LPs | 60 Spanish appetizers   |
| 29 Twilight area?         | 45 Part of a muzzle     | 62 Doesn't stay         |

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BY  
JIM  
WALSH

# Super whammy

Big names pack  
Grammy roster, but  
how will they hold up?

Is it just us, or do the Grammys actually have a chance at being something to watch for once? Let's examine the evidence.

## Exhibit A

The self-proclaimed best rapper alive, Lil Wayne, who's been having a killer year with "Tha Carter III," stole the Grammy nominations announcement show on Wednesday with eight nods in all. It's not a milli, but it's nothing to sneeze at either.

## Exhibit B

Chicago will be in full effect for the February awards show. Kanye West (six nominations), Lupe Fiasco (four) and Jennifer Hudson (two) all scored multiple nods.

Windy City staples Buddy Guy and Pinetop Perkins scored noms for best traditional blues album. And, if you're into that kind of thing, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra also got some props, along with a handful of Chicago classical artists.

## Exhibit C

Almost 7 million people tuned into the nominations show Wednesday, according to CBS. About 17.5 million people tuned in to this year's award show itself, so there's some work to be done, but we have a feeling this year's lineup will at least give people something to talk about.

In that spirit, we've cooked up a little something to help you sort through a few contenders with our 10-point scoring system. Ten's the highest, meaning a sure thing, slam-dunk winner.

## Lil Wayne

**At stake:** Among his eight leading nominations is the prized album of the year bid for "Tha Carter III," which was the only project to sell 1 million copies in its first week.

**Weak spot:** The New Orleans rapper has been nominated for Grammys before but never has taken home the trophy.

**Early numbers:** For album of the year: 4.



## COLDPLAY

**At stake:** The band's "Viva La Vida" is up against "Tha Carter III," Radiohead's "In Rainbows," Ne-Yo's "Year of the Gentleman," and Robert Plant's collaboration with Alison Krauss, "Raising Sand," for album of the year.

**Weak spot:** Looks like Grammy-voter fuddy duddies really like Plant and Krauss over Coldplay.

**Early numbers:** For album of the year: 5.



## KANYE WEST

**At stake:** He's got six nominations in various categories to worry about.

**Weak spot:** If things don't go his way, we could see a tantrum.

**Early numbers:** To win all six: 2.



## THE BRITS

**At stake:** Leona Lewis (for "Bleeding Love"), Adele (for "Chasing Pavements") and M.I.A. (above, for "Paper Planes") are contending for record of the year.

**Weak spot:** How to avoid comparisons to Amy Winehouse.

**Early numbers:** That Robert Plant's collaboration with Alison Krauss will knock off M.I.A.: 9.



## THE JONAS BROTHERS

**At stake:** The best new artist category.

**Weak spot:** Tough for those outside the tween world to take them seriously.

**Early numbers:** That they nab the trophy: 6.



## JAZMINE SULLIVAN

**At stake:** Five separate nominations.

**Weak spot:** With her hit "I Need You Bad," the comparisons to Lauryn Hill never end.

**Early numbers:** That she is, in fact, Lauryn Hill: 8.





Spears  
GETTY IMAGES

## Britney's No. 1

And the winner of the iTunes album-sales battle is ... not Stephen Colbert or Kanye West. In Monday's episode of his show, Colbert asked fans to buy his Christmas album on iTunes on Wednesday afternoon to "humble" the Chicago rap star. But come Wednesday, it was Britney Spears' "Circus" that was on top. By 8:30 p.m., Colbert's disc had surged in front of West's "808s & Heartbreak," taking over the No. 3 spot and pushing West to No. 4. Sorry, Kanye.

## 2 sought in Ruffalo shooting

Beverly Hills police are seeking two "persons of interest" they want to question about the shooting of actor Mark Ruffalo's brother, a native of Kenosha, the AP reported. A publicist for Mark Ruffalo confirmed on Wednesday that the actor's 39-year-old brother was clinging to life after being shot in the head early Monday.

## Buzzworthy

Anne Hathaway and Clint Eastwood are this year's best actors, according to the National Board of Review, which is made up of film historians and experts. Hathaway was recognized for "Rachel Getting Married" and Eastwood for "Gran Torino," **people.com** reported. Danny Boyle's "Slumdog Millionaire" was named best picture.

## QUOTED

*"I've been known for a little nibble."*

—Robert Pattinson (left) says when he's out with the ladies. TMI!



## NOTED

Madonna will appear in Louis Vuitton's Spring/Summer '09 ad campaign that will hit magazines in February. She may be having troubles personally, but professionally she's hot.

## DEMOTED

John Mayer, Details' "press whore" of the year, sets the record straight on Jennifer Aniston's election night cake that she mentioned to Oprah:

"I was the architect on that cake. ... From mixing to frosting... she took all the credit," Extra TV reported. Must be a slow week for him.



Mayer  
AP



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Davis



Knight Pullman

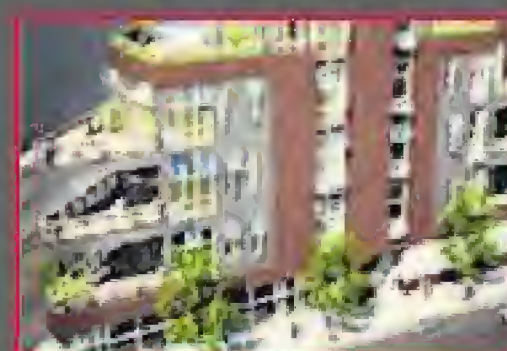
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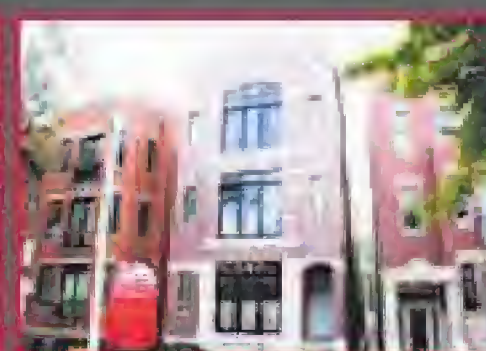
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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS



2800 N. Lincoln  
Start at \$499,000 | Lakeview  
2BR/2BA & 3BD/3BA Condos  
Marc Westmeyer 773.988.9378



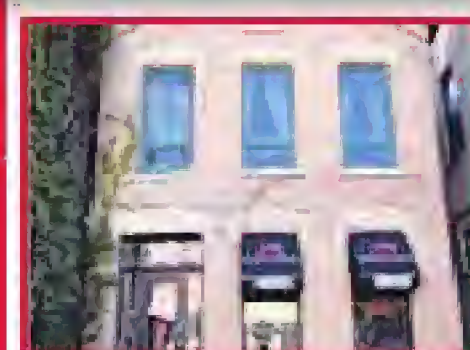
3312 N. Kenmore #2  
\$499,000 | Lakeview  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Catherine Boyle 773.344.7887



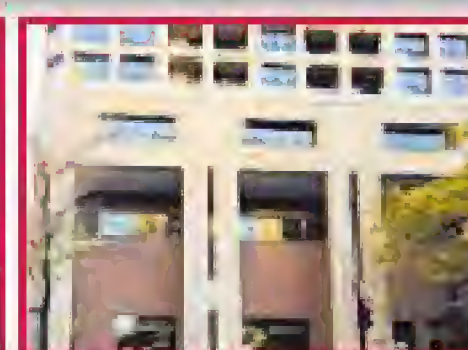
9 W. Erie  
Start at \$279,000 | River North  
1BR & 2 BR Condos  
Doug Meese 312.224.4409



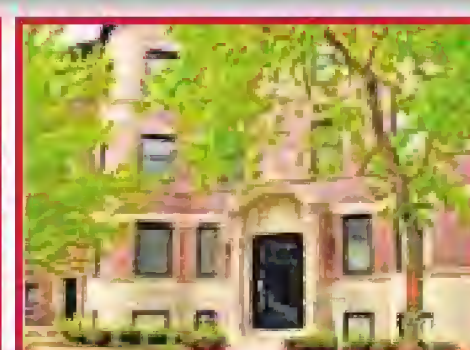
McKinley Gardens  
Start at \$269,000 | McKinley Park  
3BR/2.5BA Townhomes  
Charles Dobson 773.349.7989



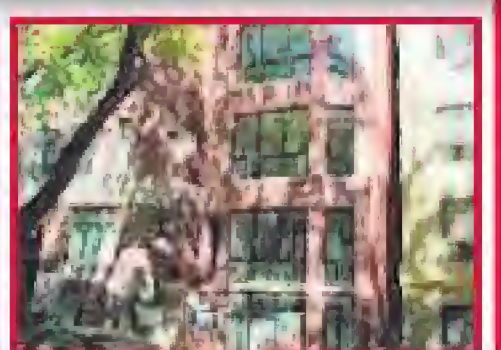
1963 N. Halsted  
\$995,000 | Lincoln Park  
Mixed Use  
Marc Westmeyer 773.988.9378



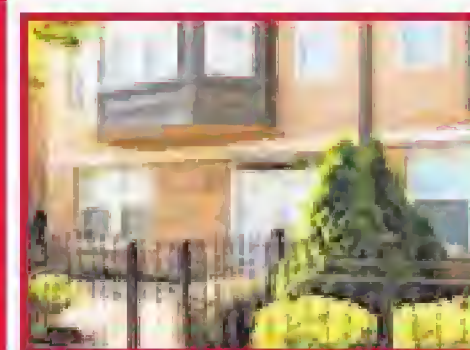
1030 N. State, #17H  
\$775,000 | Gold Coast  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Lynn Reidl 773.343.8879



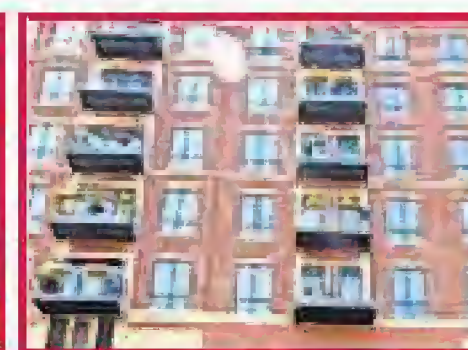
648 W. Wellington, #4  
\$510,000 | East Lakeview  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Doug Meese 773.301.7725



536 W. Oakdale, #3  
\$509,000 | Lakeview  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Catherine Boyle 773.344.7887



2467 W. Montrose  
\$469,900 | North Center  
2BR/2.5BA Townhome  
Niko Konstantopoulos 773.297.2969



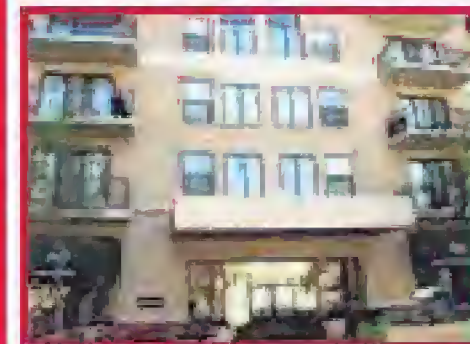
1444 N. Orleans, #8B  
\$469,900 | Old Town  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Hass Fedderke 312.399.6534



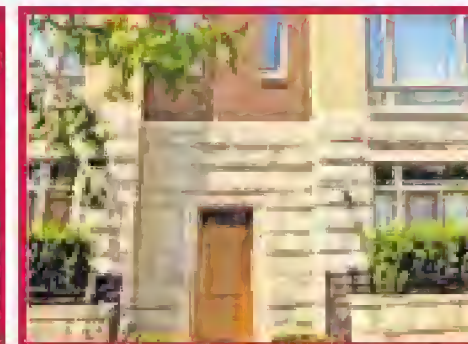
1462 Bryn Mawr, #3  
\$449,900 | Andersonville  
3BR/2BA Condo  
Kirk Fox 773.972.1963



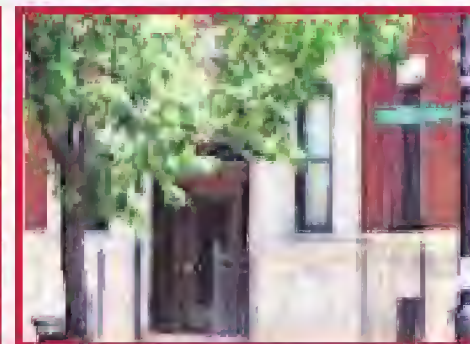
1243 S. Wabash, #302  
\$499,000 | South Loop  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Rob Gibson 312.672.2296



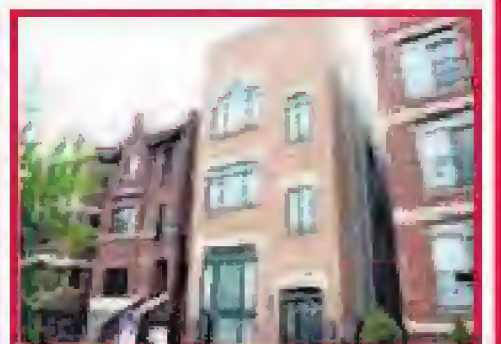
41 E. 8th St., #1407  
\$399,000 | South Loop  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Charles Dobson 773.349.7989



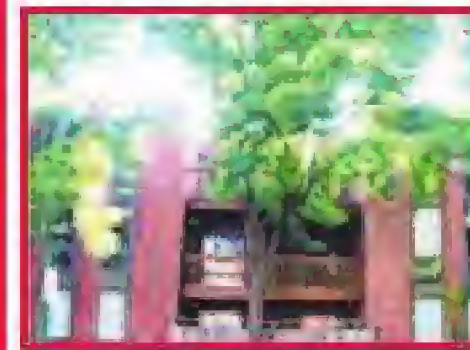
3444 N. Ashland, #3N  
\$394,900 | Lakeview  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Jim Buczynski 773.909.6815



3901 N. Sheridan, #3  
\$389,900 | Lakeview  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Jim Buczynski 773.909.6815



2039 W. Crystal, #2  
\$375,000 | Wicker Park  
2BR/2BA Condo  
John Diebel 773.213.2281



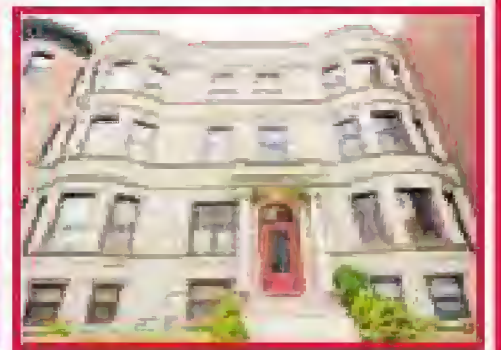
2045 N. Larrabee, #105 & 106  
Lincoln Park  
2BD & 3 BD Condos  
Neel Arad 773.307.2449



3945 N. Newland  
\$358,000 | Dunning  
4BR/3BA Bungalow  
Bevin Lynch 773.484.3370



5941 W. Foster  
\$335,000 | Jefferson Park  
3BR/2BA Bungalow  
Charles Dobson 773.349.7989



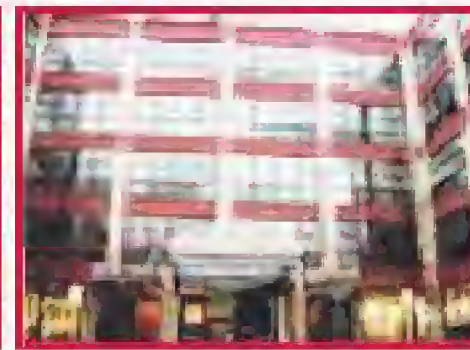
5708 N. Winthrop, #3N  
\$334,900 | Edgewater  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Jim Buczynski 773.909.6815



2915 N. Cybourn, #407  
\$332,900 | Roscoe Village  
2BR/2BA Condo  
Neel Arad 773.307.2449



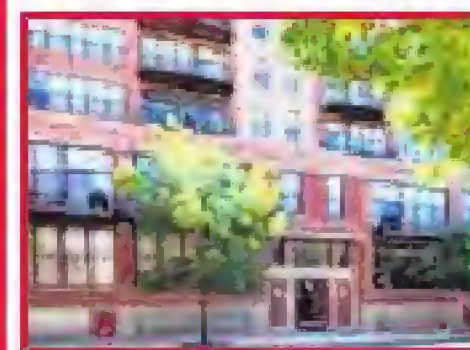
480 N. McClurg Ct., #1112  
\$299,900 | Streeterville  
1BR/1BA Condo  
Jim Buczynski 773.909.6815



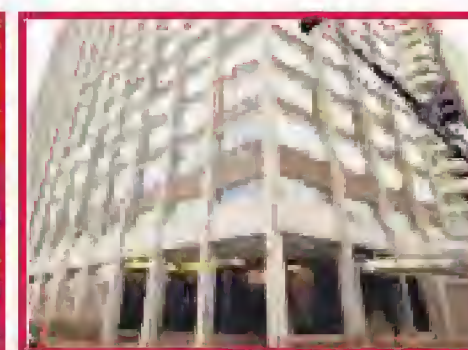
1800 W. Roscoe, #225  
\$299,000 | Roscoe Village  
1BR/1BA Loft Condo  
John Diebel 773.213.2281



920 W. Sheridan, #203  
\$284,000 | Wrigleyville  
1BR/1BA Loft Condo  
Jim Buczynski 773.909.6815



15 S. Throop, #602  
\$269,900 | West Loop  
1BR/1BA Condo  
Lynn Reidl 773.343.8879



6171 S. Sheridan, #1401  
\$144,900 | Edgewater  
1BR/1BA Condo  
Bevin Lynch 773.484.3370

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# red hot



Jon Hamm has  
Liz Lemon on his mind



## Hamming it up

The cast of Tina Fey's hit show "30 Rock" might need to bust out the fedoras—Jon Hamm is coming to town. The "Mad Men" star, whose Don Draper ad exec character is known for his classy suits and no-miss talent with the ladies, is slated to appear on "30 Rock" as a love interest for Fey's Liz Lemon character, The

Associated Press reports. Hamm reportedly will play a doctor who lives in Lemon's apartment—but don't get too excited about a lengthy romance. "I just finished a couple of episodes," Hamm says, "and I'll go back in the new year and do another one of those, and then we'll see what happens."

THE DIGIT  
**\$100,000**

Amount Bradgelina's Jolie-Pitt Foundation recently donated to Global Action for Children, which advocates for orphans and vulnerable children in the developing world, [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com) reported.

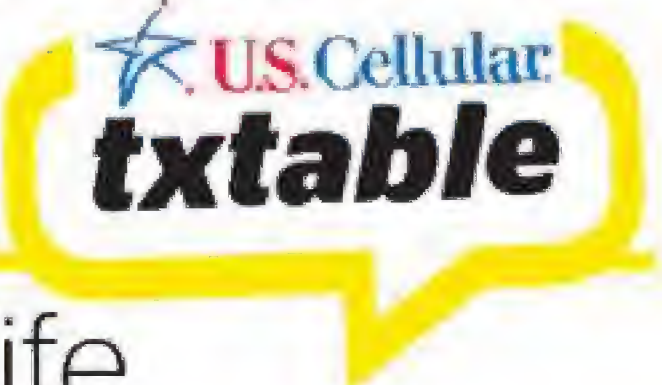
**Party-crasher Piven?**  
Celebrity spotters at Britney Spears' circus-themed 27th birthday party Tuesday night spotted Jeremy Piven in the crowd—but Piven says he was there by accident. "I'm really embarrassed—I didn't know it was Britney's birthday party!" Piven told [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com) Wednesday. "I think I was the one guy who didn't know," He said he went to Tenjune, a New York nightclub, "to say hello to someone" when he noticed the club was a circus—literally, with jugglers and a man on stilts. "I was so confused!" Piven said.

**Mama Xtina**  
Christina Aguilera is a working mom—and proud of it. "I wasn't going to give up who I was before I had the baby," Aguilera told The Associated Press about son Max at the Grammy nominations concert on Wednesday. "It's important to stay true to that as an example—also for my son to find out what his goals are, what he's passionate about doing, so it's sort of leading by example in that sense."

**Kiss and tell**  
Grammy-nominated Katy Perry said she's had the real experience she sings about in "I Kissed a Girl." She tells Page Six magazine in its Sunday issue that she's made



**Perry**  
out with women "many times, in several different situations," according to excerpts from [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com). "I was living with my best friend for awhile, and we were drunk and made out," she said. "I love a beautiful woman. I'm not afraid to say it."



**Past life**  
Katy Perry wasn't always a pop star. Before "I Kissed a Girl," she was an artist in one of the following genres. Text "perry" and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get a text back saying whether you got it right.  
1. Punk 2. Rap 3. Emo 4. Christian



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